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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi Comments on Declaration of Principles

JN2006084093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Palestinian delegation is holding daily contacts and meetings with U.S. State Department officials in order to clarify the Palestinian stand toward efforts aimed at reaching a declaration of principles with the Israeli delegation.

In a meeting with Arab reporters in Washington yesterday, 'Ashrawi was pessimistic about this issue even though the United States seems determined to achieve such a declaration. She said: We made it clear to the Americans that we will not deal, in any way, with a joint statement or anything that is incomplete. We will also not deal with anything that does not include the principles contained in the Palestinian declaration of principles presented during the ninth round of negotiations.

The spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation expressed dissatisfaction with the convening of some multilateral committees in Arab countries. She noted that lifting the Arab boycott on Israel will adversely affect the ongoing peace negotiations in Washington. [passage omitted]

Says Formula Must Include Jerusalem

TA2006165693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] There has been no progress in the political negotiations in Washington. The parties are waiting to see whether the Americans will show a higher degree of involvement in the process this week, in the wake of the new appointment of Dennis Ross as peace talks coordinator, among other things. This evening the heads of the Palestinian delegation met with Israeli correspondents in Washington, and our correspondent Razi Barqay reports from their Washington hotel with more details.

[Begin Barqay recording] East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. We will never accept a formula that obfuscates the question of Jerusalem or that even includes the slightest hint that we accept its annexation. These statements were made by Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation. 'Ashrawi was speaking to Israeli correspondents, and here are some of her key remarks:

We Palestinians demand that the declaration of principles stipulate that the self-administration will apply to all of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem. The Gaza First proposal, in conjunction with the town of Jericho, has never been submitted to us officially. If you Israelis want to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians will welcome such a step; however, we regard the Gaza Strip as part of the territories. Therefore, 'Ashrawi asserted, an Israeli pullback from the Gaza Strip would be a good idea on the condition that it becomes the first step toward a comprehensive withdrawal. The Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman said that the closure on the territories, and especially the separation of Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, is intolerable. Israel talks about peace but at the same time carries out unilateral moves in the field, 'Ashrawi concluded.

To sum things up, the opening of the second week of talks does not seem to proffer any way out of the deadlock, and this evening, the signing of a joint Palestinian-Israeli statement of principles still appears impossible. [end recording]

Delegate Al-Agha Reviews First Week's Progress

LD2006182893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation and of the steering committee of the delegation to the peace negotiations, described the first week of the 10th round being held in Washington as a continuation of the previous rounds, especially the last one. He said discussions on a declaration of principles to be the basis for future negotiations have begun, with the discussions focusing primarily on four main issues: the terms of reference of the peace process, Jerusalem, settlement, and the geographical jurisdiction. In addition, the current conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the siege measures, the isolation of Jerusalem, and human rights violations by the Israeli forces, were also discussed.

The Palestinian negotiator stressed that the Palestine side insists on its stands and principles, and will not deviate from them. It considered the transitional stage as a crossing to independence and that all arrangements during this stage must express this attitude, that is, there should be complete Palestinian authority over all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. Brother Zakariya al-Agha defined the nature of the transitional authority, as Palestinians understand as the following: It must enjoy all powers and the legislative, executive, and judicial responsibilities. He pointed out that the final solution must be based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish its independent state.

Dr. al-Agha announced that the Palestinian side presented to the Israeli side demands within the framework of the Committee on Human Rights during the meetings of this committee, which are being held on the sidelines of the negotiations to discuss all matters pertaining to Israeli practices in the occupied territories. He made clear that among those demands on which the Palestinians insisted are the lifting of the siege on Jerusalem and the occupied territories, the halting of settlement, the return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees and the deportees since 1967, the release of a large number of detainees, foremost the old, the sick, and those who have spent long periods of detention, and other matters pertaining to human rights violations in the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Agha said that the Israeli side attended the 10th round while sticking to its previous stands and is determined not to respect the terms of reference of the peace process, a matter that has led to a lack of progress and to the widening of the gap between the attitudes of the two sides. Consequently no agreement has been reached yet with the Israelis on the issues under discussion. Dr. al-Agha commented on the multiplicity of Israeli official statements in the media of late on giving up the Gaza Strip and said that they were made for public consumption, because the Gaza issue has not been raised yet, not by the Israeli side, nor by the United States, nor by any other side. He stressed that there is no room for separating the occupied Palestinian territories. The cause is one, and there should be an early agreement on withdrawal from the occupied Palestinians territories.

On the attitude of the U.S. Administration, Dr. al-Agha said it is unclear and is trying to evade its responsibilities as an effective honest broker; rather the U.S. attitudes are closer to the Israeli ones, not to say the current administration is more partial than the previous one. He pointed to continuous U.S. pressures, always striving to push the Palestinian side to move closer to Israeli attitudes despite the daily meetings between the Palestinian and the U.S. sides, to urge it not to stand against Israel, but to force Israel to meet the requirements of the peace process and the reaching of an agreement on a declaration of principles.

Finally, Dr. al-Agha denied all rumors surrounding Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian negotiating team, and pointed out that are unfounded and are aimed at casting doubt in the stand of the Palestinian negotiating team and sowing confusing among the Palestinian masses. He stressed categorically that 'Abd-al-Shafi is the leader of the Palestinian negotiating team and will continue to be so.

Syria's al-'Allaf Discusses Security, U.S. Role

NC1906083393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, in Washington by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome, Mr. Ambassador, to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] At the end of the first week of the 10th round of talks, have there been any results?

[Al-'Allaf] Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation in the first week of this round. We cannot judge the entire round, because this is just the first of three weeks. However, there is extreme concern that we are not seeing any real change in the Israeli position which, for more than 19 months since the start of the Madrid peace conference, has been the cause of the lack of real progress on any of the tracks in the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] What do you mean by change?

[Al-'Allaf] The peace process is supposedly based on a fundamental thing: a commitment by all the parties to implement the resolutions and rules on which the peace process has been based. More specifically, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 apply to the Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks, while Security Council Resolution 425 applies to the Lebanese track. However, so far Israel has failed to honor, explicitly and unambiguously, any of these resolutions, though it claims that it accepts the implementation of these resolutions on the various tracks of the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] Did Israel propose anything new to you this time regarding the peace process? There are reports that Israel wants security guarantees in exchange for withdrawal from some parts of the Golan Heights.

[Al-'Allaf] Security is not a new element. It is one of the main elements that interests the Arabs perhaps more than the Israelis. There is a common theory that Israel has managed to persuade the whole world of; that is, that it is the only party interested in security. But the fact of the matter is that the Arab parties have always been on the receiving end of attack, occupation, and aggression. This proves that security is as important to the Arabs as it is to Israel.

[Abu-al-Majd] Even more, Mr. Ambassador.

[Al-'Allaf] Even more, as you said, because we have always been the party targeted by the Israeli aggression, because Israel is still occupying lands belonging to several Arab parties, and because it is still violating the rights of the Palestinian people. So, security is important to us. It has been discussed on all tracks. On the Syrian-Israeli track in particular, it was discussed more than 18 months ago. Under the new Israeli Government, which has been involved in the peace process since it came to power approximately a year ago, we held lengthy discussions on security arrangements and principles for such arrangements. We linked these principles, as they should be, to territories. This is because it is inconceivable to discuss any security arrangements or any security matters in a vacuum. Such arrangements will have to be implemented in territories. But Israel, which claims that it wants to be reassured about its security, does not agree for its part to lift the security threat against the Arabs and has not agreed, so far, to explicitly and frankly commit itself to full withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, as it is required to do under Security Council Resolution 242.

[Abu-al-Majd] What did the Syrian delegation propose in the first week of the 10th round in exchange for Israel's demand for what it calls security guarantees?

[Al-'Allaf] We have emphasized that the obstacle preventing progress in the peace process is, as I said before, Israel's procrastination and failure to make an unequivocal and clear commitment that it is ready to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967. We have said that we accept any security arrangements, so long as they do not infringe on the sovereignty, rights, or territorial integrity of any party. We said that the security of any party must not be achieved at the expense of another. We have demanded that any security arrangements must apply on equal terms to the two sides, because security is something that concerns two parties, not just one.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are we to understand from this, Mr. Ambassador, that you are ready to give security guarantees in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, or is it that you are willing to give some security guarantees in exchange for a partial withdrawal?

[Al-'Allaf] No, we are not here for a partial peace. We are here for a comprehensive peace and we have been invited by the cosponsors of the peace conference for a comprehensive peace. We believe that partial peace does not lead to real peace. No peace in the region can be attained if part of the Arab territories remains under occupation and if human rights and the national rights of any of the region's peoples continue to be violated.

[Abu-al-Majd] Did the U.S. cosponsor interfere between you and the Israeli side?

[Al-'Allaf] As I said earlier, the 10th round is still in its first week. The U.S. cosponsor is holding separate contacts with each party. The U.S. side, as it says, is trying to bridge the gap in views. However, we have yet to see these efforts translated into actual change in the Israeli position inside the negotiating room.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you intend to make specific Syrian proposals to the Israeli delegation during the second round of talks?

[Al-'Allaf] The Syrian proposals almost always stay on the negotiating table. As you know, on the Syrian-Israeli track there is a Syrian working document that was submitted during the sixth round of talks. It is the only document that is currently being discussed. Naturally, Israel submits many amendments and ideas that seek to empty this document of its substance. We are discussing all these issues with the Israelis and we always say that we are ready to accept any idea if it is in line with the basic principles for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. In the meantime, of course we do not accept any maneuvering or beating about the bush in order to maintain the Israeli occupation or undermine Arab rights in any way whatsoever.

[Abu-al-Majd] The second week of the 10th round of talks will begin in a few days. Do you believe that the United States will play a bigger role than in the past?

[Al-'Allaf] The current U.S. Administration stated a long time ago that it wants to be a full partner and to play a more active role. As I have said before, there are daily contacts and we could see some activity. Contacts are being held at the various levels, even at the ministerial level. As you remember from last week, a meeting took place between the U.S. secretary of state and the Syrian foreign minister. There are similar meetings between the U.S. secretary of state and the other Arab ministers, including that of our sister, Egypt. So, contacts are under way, but the problem is that we do not see the results of these efforts translated into actual change in the Israeli negotiating attitude, which shows that Israel is trying to keep on maneuvering and obstructing the peace process. We hope, and I have so stated, that we are waiting to see if some change will take place, if Israel is really serious about the matter, between now and the end of the round in two weeks' time.

[Abu-al-Majd] At the end of this dialogue, we thank Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you.

Lubrani: Lebanese Holding to Inflexible Formula

TA1906174293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon, by Shlomo Ganor in Washington; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Lubrani, the talks between Israel and Lebanon appear to be heading toward a dead end. Are there any new ideas on how to extricate the negotiations from their present stalemate?

[Lubrani] The main difficulty in the talks with Lebanon is that while we constantly seek ways to make progress, the Lebanese have locked onto a formula—which in my assessment was not prepared in Beirut but rather dictated by another Arab capital—and they do not consider themselves free to deviate from it. I think that ideas can always be found, and we will continue searching for them. Despite all the difficulties on this track, the prime minister has instructed us to exert every effort to find a way to make progress. This was the case when we submitted papers on a military working group, and we shall consider how to promote additional ideas if this becomes necessary.

[Ganor] Do you expect the United States to try and bridge the differences between the Lebanese and Israeli positions and papers?

[Lubrani] The United States is involved in the talks on a daily basis. This involvement does not seek to impose on the parties, but rather to pave the way for progress. I believe that this involvement should be greater and become more authoritative over time. It is hard for me to say when this will happen.

[Ganor] How are the negotiations affecting the residents of the Lebanese security zone?

[Lubrani] The negotiations obviously have an effect on them. I think that the residents of the security zone are closely following all developments here; however, they well know that these negotiations aim at reaching a peace agreement, and they know that there will be no change in the current deployment before the implementation of security arrangements that will be anchored in the framework of a peace agreement. Therefore, I am sure that all residents of the security zone hope that the negotiations will make progress. They know that as far as they are concerned, nothing will happen before there are arrangements that will guarantee their future in the context of a peace treaty.

[Ganor] Do you consult with the residents of the security zone?

[Lubrani] Certainly. I am in contact with General Lahd [commander of the South Lebanese Army], and we receive daily briefings. The interests of the security zone and the desire of its residents are definitely taken into account during these talks.

[Ganor] To sum things up, Mr. Lubrani, what should we expect at the beginning of the second week of the current round of negotiations?

[Lubrani] Right now, at any rate, I am expecting to receive answers to the questions we submitted to the Lebanese side with regard to their position paper from 11 May. I hope that we will then be more capable of assessing ways to make progress on the military working groups.

[Ganor] Thank you very much, Mr. Lubrani.

Lebanese Delegate: Israelis Ignoring Some Issues

NC2106081893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Interview with Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] What has been achieved on the Lebanese-Israeli level at the end of the first week of the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks?

[Shammas] We are continuing discussions on each delegation's position on substantive issues. I would like to note here that we believe there are issues on the Lebanese track that the Israeli negotiator does not want to recognize. The starting point toward achieving the desired peace for the Lebanese track was established clearly in Madrid; it was a serious piece of work to draw up the correct framework to implement all provisions of Resolution 425. This is the basic difference between us and the Israeli side, which wants to link the implementation of the resolution to a full treaty between Lebanon and Israel.

[Husayn] Reports indicate that progress is likely on the Israeli-Palestinian level, and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has spoken about what he termed partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights. There has been no talk so far of any Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, and Israel insists on a security treaty. Does Lebanon agree to such a treaty within the context of a comprehensive peace accord with Israel?

[Shammas] Let me first note that Lebanon welcomes any progress on any Arab track in these negotiations. We believe that any progress made on any track of the negotiations has a positive impact on other tracks. This is also the case regarding possible reports, be they true or untrue. It is an assessment in principle. The second point is that Lebanon entered the peace process knowing full well that this process aims, among other goals, to end the entire Arab- Israeli conflict and reach a comprehensive, just peace. Lebanon participated in these negotiations knowing very well that it has to bear the burdens of reaching peace. However, the question is how do we arrive at this peace. I want to emphasize the characteristics of the Lebanese track that I mentioned in my first answer. There is no connection between Resolution 425 and a peace accord. Resolution 425 leads the Lebanese and Israeli delegations to peace. There is an Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territories which must end and the Israeli withdrawal must be made to the internationally recognized Lebanese borders.

This is a necessary starting point on which the two parties can reach an understanding through a working committee set up for this purpose. The committee can have other mandates to talk about aspects that must be discussed in the future to establish a comprehensive peace.

[Husayn] Israel frequently launches raids and attacks on southern Lebanon. It claims that attacks originating in southern Lebanon are taking place against Israel. What is your view of the resistance activity in southern Lebanon against Israel?

[Shammas] We emphasize that the current events in southern Lebanon are an outcome of the existing occupation. The word occupation annoys Israel. However, this is the fact of the situation. All Lebanese citizens believe the existing situation in the south is occupation. All the Arabs, as well as the international community, support this view. However, no matter how Israel describes the existing situation in southern Lebanon, it must realize the current events in southern Lebanon are an outcome and a cause of this occupation. Israel and Lebanon must deal seriously with this subject during these talks to reach a certain understanding and a clear definition of the existing situation in the south. Israel calls its occupation of southern Lebanon a presence—as if it is a presence in response to an invitation or a brotherly presence. Israel must realize that this occupation is the cause of the existing problems. By removing this occupation, we believe we can overcome all problems and start working toward establishing real peace.

[Husayn] Can you describe the coordination among the Arab parties hours before the start of the second week of the 10th round of talks?

[Shammas] In fact, I want to praise the level of coordination among the Arab parties participating in the talks. Coordination continues. Even during the recess in the talks, contacts were held among all the heads of delegations. There are daily meetings held by special representatives to discuss this coordination. This coordination gives strength to the Arab position. Egypt is participating in all the coordination meetings held by the Arab foreign ministers concerned with the Middle East. This coordination gives impetus to the peace talks. It aims to strengthen the bases of peace and push the peace process forward.

Jordan's al-Tarawinah Denies Reaching Agreement

JN1806122293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The Jordanian chief delegate to Middle East peace talks has denied that the items proposed on a Jordanian-Israeli track are practically in their final stages.

Mr. Fayiz al-Tarwinah told reporters after the end of the third session of the 10th round of bilaterals that the Jordanians and Israelis have not yet agreed on the draft agenda. He said there were still many items to be discussed before starting the negotiations.

Mr. al-Tarawinah said the Jordanians are keen to keep a balance in the peace process on all tracks, denying media reports that the proposed items are actually agreed. He said such reports are exaggerated.

He reviewed the issues discussed by the Jordanian and Israeli delegations in the past three sessions. Mr. al-Tarawinah said they agreed on the continuation of the temporary informal working groups to discuss the informal proposed items included in the draft agenda the two sides have not agreed upon. Those items included the issue of water, family reunification, and refugees rights, based on the terms of reference of the peace process and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arabs Reportedly Reject Common Market With Israel

NC2006060093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Salah Budaywi: "Arabs Reject Plan for Middle East Common Market"]

[Text] A number of Arab countries participating in the Arab League's Economic Unity Council meetings in Cairo, due to wind up today, have strongly rejected a plan to set up a Middle East common market to include both Arabs and Zionists.

Sudanese delegate 'Izz-al-Din Hamid described the plan as aiming to destroy the Arab League and its affiliate organizations and declared Sudan's rejection of the idea.

Iraqi delegate Dr. Nabil Najm criticized those who advocate these new economic frameworks. He called for the revival of the Arab economic unity agreement and the Arab common market plan. The Arabs need to give technical and financial support to efforts to consolidate Arab economic unity and establish an Arab common market, he said, pointing out that a new world economic order is currently taking shape.

The council member countries rejected a proposal by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to merge the Arab Economic Unity Council into the Arab Social and Economic Council in order to help the former overcome its current crisis, a proposal through which the UAE hoped to boost Arab cooperation. The member countries viewed the proposal as an attempt to undermine the agreements concerning the Arab common market and economic unity and pave the way to establishing a Middle East common market.

Hasan Ibrahim Amin, secretary general of the Economic Unity Council, noted that the council's staff has not been paid in 20 months, that the council's members have been several years late in paying their dues, and that the council has accumulated $8 million in debt, something that undermines the efforts to establish an Arab common market and to implement the Arab economic unity agreement.

AMU Foreign Ministers Hold 13th Session in Tunis

Tunisia's Ben Yahya Opens Session

LD1906100293 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The work of the 13th session of the AMU Foreign Affairs Ministerial Council under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya was opened today in Tunis. Here is a report by Moncef Ayyari:

[Ayyari] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya opened the session with an address in which he conveyed to the participants greetings from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the current AMU chairman, who continuously gives his care to the AMU procession and devotes his special attention to the Maghreb progress.

The foreign minister noted that this second meeting in Tunis within six months reaffirms the unshaken will of the Maghreb leaders and the enthusiasm of our peoples to realize the planned objectives. He said that the first half of this year witnessed major dynamism and concentrated formation of activities at all official and popular levels. He stressed the importance of the work of the AMU to establish a dialogue with the other regional groupings.

Maghreb diplomacy continued its cooordinated moves at all levels, a matter which consolidates its effective role in the international arena in the shadow of the far-reaching changes. Habib Ben Yahya referred also to the concentrated contacts that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had had with his brothers—the leaders of the AMU member-countries—in order to coordinate their stances.

The foreign minister reaffirmed the importance of the coordinated Maghreb moves in the international spheres and regional meetings such as the meeting of the Arab League, the Islamic World Organization's Foreign Ministers Council, and within the framework of the seven-man committee entrusted with looking into the crisis between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western states, stressing the importance of movement within the UN in order to enable the Arab Maghreb region avoid the reflections of this crisis. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Addresses Ministers

LD1906185093 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Today brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the brother foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] member-countries in the presence of Brothers Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the Palestinian foreign minister and head of the political department, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah movement and PLO representative to the Tunisian Republic. Brother Abu-'Ammar informed the ministers about the current developments of the peace process in the light of the continuation of the Israeli stubbornness particularly vis-a-vis Holy Jerusalem, as well as the issue of settlements, both of which are the obstacles to any real progress round the negotiations table.

The brother president stressed that any progress in the negotiations is now linked to the lifting of the siege on the Palestinian occupied territories, the most important of which is Jerusalem, and forcing the Israeli side to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, which cover all the Palestinian occupied territories including Jerusalem, as well as putting a halt to any settlement activities. Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed the need for the American sponsor to shoulder its responsibilities and play its role as a full impartial partner. This role should be undertaken in abidance with and in implementation of the UN resolutions that Israel is avoiding to recognize and implement, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. He also stressed that the peace process should remain a point of reference. All this holds the American administration fully responsible to implement its commitments to the peace process and to have Israel abide by the UN resolutions.

On the other hand, brother President Abu-'Ammar indicated the increasing sufferings of the sons of our people in the occupied homeland, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which is suffering from real famine due to the Israeli measures and the siege policy imposed by the occupation authorities on the occupation authorities. Brother Abu-'Ammar linked the iron-fist policy being carried out by the occupation forces with personal orders given by Rabin. He also linked the stepping up of the assassination and arrest operations, which reached their peak in the recent months, with Rabin's clear instructions to discard the issues of Jerusalem and the settlements from the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Karoui Meets Delegates

LD1906200893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui this morning met at the government house in the Kasbah with the delegation that participated in the 13th session of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] Foreign Ministerial Council, whose work ended last night in Tunis. [passage omitted]

The prime minister stressed the importance of implementing the agreements reached and the programs established. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni: PLO Should Not Focus on Jerusalem Issue

JN1906141293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 93 pp 1, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Informed Palestinian sources have revealed details of the PLO Executive Committee meeting held under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis two days ago. The meeting dealt with the outcome of the contacts the Palestinian negotiating delegation held with the U.S. Administration.

The sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that some members of the PLO Executive Committee feared the U.S. full partner role, explaining that Faysal al-Husayni, who took part in the meeting, stressed the need to not highlight the issue of Jerusalem because Israeli public opinion is unanimous about it.

Al-Husayni added that Israeli public opinion will be provoked if the issue of Jerusalem is highlighted as a major or only point at the negotiating table. The sources pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee discussed the U.S. call to sign a political document in the 10th round of talks regardless of whether it will be a declaratiuon of principles or merely a political statement. From the U.S. point of view, it is important to work out a political document that defines the relationship between the Israelis and Palestinians during the transitional phase, as well as the relationship between the transitional and final phases.

The sources added that the U.S. Administration informed the Palestinians that such a political document can contain basic points on the self-rule arrangements, including the issue of territorial administration. They said the U.S. request has made it absolutely clear that the Americans will not put such a document aside, and that the United States asked the Palestinians to deal with this document as a compromise.

Sha'th: Jerusalem Issue Key to Withdrawal Agreement

LD1906190093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] at the peace talks currently taking place in Washington, has stressed that any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories is extremely important. He added that if the withdrawal does take place, it will stem from a real understanding of UN Resolution 242 and from the slogan of land for peace. He also insisted that it will not be possible to reach an agreement on principles if such an agreement does not include Jerusalem and if it does not set a clearly defined regional framework for the power of the transitional government which should include all the territories occupied by Israel since 4 June 1967 [date as heard]. Sha'th further said that Israel's intransigence on the question of Jerusalem and the settlements still constitute an insurmountable obstacle to the achievement of real progress at the negotiating table. He added that the goal behind all the current negotiations on the transitional stage is to move toward the final stage, which should end with a complete withdrawal from all our occupied Palestinian territories.

This was said in an exclusive interview with Nabil Sha'th at the end of the first week of the 10th round of negotiations in Washington.

In reply to a question about the numerous reports and rumors concerning a withdrawal from Gaza, he said: The demand for partial withdrawals from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a prelude to a total withdrawal is a demand that we should never give up. This demand stems from two main principles: First, we will not pay the price for any partial withdrawal that would mean relinquishing any other part of our national territory, particularly with regard to Jerusalem. Therefore, the liberation of Gaza, Nabulus, Jericho, or Hebron is a pressing demand, but we will not pay any price which would mean reliquishing Jerusalem or any other inch of our land. Any partial withdrawal is a prelude toward entrenching the principle of liberating the land and toward obtaining a total withdrawal and is not a substitute for such a total withdrawal.

Second, we will not accept any partial move that will create isolated Palestinian cantons or that will impose a given situation on one part of our occupied land, such as Gaza, as this would lead to a different situation between this part and another part of our homeland, namely the West Bank.

In any event, any partial move should stem from the principle of full Palestinian national unity and total cohesion between the parts of the homeland inside [the territories] and between the homeland inside and our people abroad. Therefore, it is also incumbent on us, at every move made in any phase, to use our right to obtain the return of the largest number possible of our people who were deported or who were banned from returning.

Sha'th further said: We have no objection to the conclusion of a partial disengagement [ishtibak] on the condition that this includes the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and not just the [Gaza] Strip, like the disengagement concluded in 1973 after the October war on the Syrian and Egyptian borders, when Israel withdrew completely from al-Qunaytirah and from Suez and then from other parts of the Golan and in Sinai. Hence the idea of Gaza-Jericho, which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat mentioned to some reporters.

Brother Nabil Sha'th added: In this case, such an Israeli withdrawal from parts of Gaza and the West Bank could be considered as a step toward completing the start of the transitional phase immediately in the remaining parts of the occupied territories. This would be followed by negotiations over the final situation so as to complete the evacuation of the Israelis from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, with the knowledge that the talk about an Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian towns, villages, and population centers during the transitional phase is an integral part of any agreement on transitional rule [hukm].

Dr. Nabil Sha'th explained that if withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza is realized this would be a beginning to these withdrawals and will form a starting point that is more advanced because it proceeds from the concept of disengagement and complete withdrawal and not a partial withdrawal. He announced his rejection of the Israeli logic, which hampers the withdrawal and tries to make the final solution out of the transitional period.

Answering a question about the appearance of speculation and hearsay about vague meetings, he said: A great deal of this news is totally wrong. As a principle, there is nothing to prevent the PLO leaders from holding meetings with Israeli leaders. The problem is the Israeli stance, which rejects such meetings. I believe this Israeli stance places obstacles in the way of the PLO leadership taking part in the negotiations.

He referred to the occurrence of some occasional meetings with Israeli representatives at conferences in Europe, such as the human rights conference in Vienna. He went on to say: We are not here trying to bring about a complete change of the terms of the peace process.

Sha'th answered a question about the manner in which the Palestinian side has handled the 10th round of the negotiations on two major and basic questions, namely Jerusalem and the building of settlements. He said: The greater part of the time spent with the Americans and Israelis during the negotiating sessions was on the question of imposing the siege around Jerusalem. This is a matter that we will always demand. We will pin any real progress that is achieved at the negotiating table to it; that is, lifting the siege of Jerusalem.

He added that the Jerusalem question in this round is raised from three angles, the first is to lift the isolation and siege of Jerusalem and ending any restrictions applying to the Palestinian people to enter Jerusalem or to use it in transit. Our struggle for this point not only takes into account the human and economic aspect in the Israeli crime of imposing the isolation. This has always been raised at the human rights committee, which is convened alongside the round of negotiations.

We however concentrate on the political side of this issue because isolating Jerusalem is an Israeli attempt to impose political situations on the occupied soil embodying the attempts to annex Jerusalem to Israel and separate it from the occupied Palestinian territories.

The second aspect is the role of Jerusalem in the transitional stage and at the negotiations about the so-called the agreement of principle. Here again we insist that it is not possible to reach an agreement of principles that does not include Jersusalem or place a clear regional framework for the authority of the transitional government that embraces all the territories that were occupied by Israel after 4 June 1967. Despite the intransigent Israeli stance on this point, our stance is firm, clear, and unwavering, and one would not exaggerate to say that this question has formed and still forms the stubborn barrier that prevents real progress at the negotiating table.

He added: We explained to the Americans clearly that it is impossible to reach an agreement of principles without Jerusalem and that despite the fact that we are not now negotiating about the final status of Jerusalem and all the occupied soil, Jerusalem should be treated through the same framework that is being used to tackle the issue of the occupied territories with regard to the transitional stage. Nothing should be done that would impair our right at the final stage.

Brother Nabil Sha'th concluded by saying: The negotiating delegation managed at the previous round to obtain from the Americans a commitment to inform us about the results of the American guarantees scheme, which imposes constant monitoring of the building of settlements via satellites and on-site inspection operations. Our on-site experts met with an American team several times at the previous round to make sure of Israel's commitment to stopping the building of settlements. It is true that we did not receive all the answers that we wanted, but it was a step that aroused the anger of the Israelis, and we will continue to insist on it to place more pressure for the sake of stopping the building of settlements.

'Abd-al-Shafi Interviewed on Peace Process

NC1906121293 London MBC Television in Arabic 2140 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation to the peace talks, by MBC announcer Antoine 'Awn in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you are in London, and the Palestinian delegation is in the negotiating hall in Washington. Why are you not with the delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, agreement on this visit was reached a long time ago. At that time, I thought I would be outside the negotiating process, or rather, I expected that we would suspend our participation long before now. I did not want to give up my commitment to this date, and, therefore, I asked the Palestinian leadership for permission to come to London and then go back to work with the delegation.

['Awn] You said that you had expected to be outside the negotiating process. According to certain exclusive reports, you requested that the Palestinian leadership refrain from taking part in the 10th round of peace talks and that Yasir 'Arafat asked you to attend so that the situation would not be misinterpreted. Is this true?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As a matter of fact, my position and that of the delegation as whole was that it was useless to continue the negotiating process after the eighth round of talks, particularly after Israel made a decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians. We declared that we must cling to our insistance on Israel's implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. We also declared that the negotiating process did not make any progres during eight rounds. We conveyed our position to the Palestinain leadership to suspend the talks and not to take part in the ninth round of peace talks. The Palestinian leadership, for certain reasons, made a decision to join the talks. Out of respect for our leadership, we went to the ninth round. But no progress was made, and the round produced no results. We then thought that we would not go to the 10th round, but again the Palestinian leadership made a decision to join the talks.

['Awn] If the decision was up to you, what would you decide?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As I said, after eight rounds, I think that there is ample reason to believe that this process lost its credibility and honesty. The situation must be rectified, that is, forcing Israel to respect the basis on which the process was based and that the U.S. cosponsor should adopt a stand in harmony with this basis and with the legitimate realities surrounding the negotiating process. Since nothing of the sort has happened, I was of the view that we suspend the talks until we see what would happen and whether it was possible to rectify the process.

['Awn] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the negotiating delegation, does not share your views. He expects a joint declaration of principles will be released after this round that convenes in Washington today. Do you think he is overoptimistic?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Perhaps, I agree with the term overoptimism. My position is based on our experience in the past nine rounds of peace talks. I do not disagree with the possibility that a declaration of principles may be released. However, such a declaration must outline all the basic issues surrounding the peace process, primarily the issue of territories. I know that the Israeli position will not admit what is legitimate regarding the land. Hence, I have a feeling that we will not reach an agreement on principles.

['Awn] We will move to the substance of the negotiations after this question: Frankly speaking, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, there is talk about deep differences within the Palestinian negotiating delegation members, and not just tactical differences as you said. It is also reported that there is another parallel channel of negotiations. Is this true?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My view is that there are no differences within the delegation. I can say that the position of the delegation members is united. If there are differences in views or in assessing what is happening, this is the nature of things and of human beings: Some people are optimistic while others are pessimistic. However, there are no drastic differences. I can say that the delegation members are united, which is one of the important factors. Regarding the existence of parallel channel of negotiations, I have no knowledge of this. If I find out that there is a parallel channel, I will not continue in the negotiating process for one minute.

['Awn] Then, what do you say about the meetings reported by all media to have been held in Vienna and Norway?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I view these meetings as exploratory ones that could be beneficial to the negotiating process. I always ask about the results of these meetings in order to know the Israeli current viewpoints. There is nothing more to it, and I do not consider these meetings as substitute channels for the negotiating process.

['Awn] Let us get into the details of the substance of the talks. U.S President Clinton's administration, in its latest statement titled Full Partner, has backtracked a great deal on various points from the spirit of the Madrid conference, most importantly, on the question of land for peace, the terms of reference for the negotiations, and the question of Jerusalem. What are the risks involved in this new U.S. attitude?

['Abd-al-Shafi] These, in fact, are very serious positions that do not live up to the role of the U.S. cosponsor and that show bias toward the Israeli side. These stands downgrade the eligibility of the U.S. side as a cosponsor of this process and constitute a departure from the U.S. role in the Middle East since the beginning of the occupation in 1967. For this, I am extremely dissatisfied with the current U.S. position, which undoubtedly will not help reach peace.

['Awn] If we talk a little about the Israeli understanding of the transitional and final periods of the settlement, what are the minimum requirements acceptable to the Palestinians as far as this issue is concerned?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, Israel is an occupying state, and this is the view of the entire world. All the Security Council members consider Israel an occupying state. Resolution 242, which is one of the terms of reference of the peace process, states that it is inadmissible to occupy others' territory by force and demands withdrawal as part of a peace agreement. Israel's insistence that it is not an occupier implies a claim that the occupied territories are disputable territories. This is the premise on which Israel is trying to demand authority over territories in the occupied areas, which is something that we can never accept and that runs counter to all existing facts. This is the main point of disagreement. Israel created faits accomplis in the occupied territories in a flagrant violation of Resolution 242, the Geneva Convention, and the human rights principles. It is trying to give legitimacy to these violations through negotiations. However, we are adamantly against this and will not concede to Israel any jurisdiction over any part of the occupied territories, foremost among them being East Jerusalem.

['Awn] During the term of former President Bush, you entered the negotiations to break the Israeli ranks and obtain your legitimate rights. Today, you are faced with two fronts: the United States and Israel. What happens if you fail to make any progress?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact the answer lies in the Palestinian people's ability to take advantage of their potential, the vast potential of such a small people, which is still neglected and not fully used. The answer lies in the Palestinian people's ability to organize and mobilize the Palestinian potential that, if used, could have a positive role on the Arab atmosphere in general and could give leverage to the Palestinian side during the negotiating process and in everything else. We are lacking in this area, although it is the most important issue. I have expressed this view from the beginning of the talks and told our people in the occupied territories not to attach too much hope on the negotiations, because the important thing is to be able to organize and intensify the Palestinian potential.

['Awn] This self-criticism is good, and since you opened it up, what do you think of the Palestinian political performance today and are you satisfied with it?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Frankly, I am not satisfied. There is room for much improvement. We are in need of an organizational process on a wide-scale democratic basis in all fields.

['Awn] Therefore, you somewhat agree on this point with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the former Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, who resigned in protest against the leadership. He even questioned the leadership's honesty and objected to the Palestinian delegation's hasty and uncalculated concessions. What is your answer?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, I wish to differ with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid's claim that concessions were made or that the delegation acted hastily. Had we made concessions, there would be no impasse in the negotiations today. First of all I deny that the delegation made concessions. Secondly, his blame and criticism are sound. They tally with the facts. Still—without wishing to be harsh on Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid—I want to say that he was the PNC speaker and thus was in a position, had he wished, to use his position to improve matters. He could have used his speakership to invigorate the PNC's role as the basic authority behind our political leadership. The PNC has been acting as if it did not exist. I have a lot of respect for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid's patriotic history. Perhaps his advanced age played a major role in his resignation.

['Awn] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, to speak frankly, some people are saying that your forthrightness in revealing the shortcomings of the negotiations with Israel have had this result: You became the number-two man in the process. What is your response?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know about this number-two thing. I am the head of the negotiating delegation. I am not number two. No one has authority over me in this capacity.

['Awn] Not even Faysal al-Husayni.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Not even Faysal al-Husayni. I am the head of the delegation. When Faysal joined it, he did so as a member, so I believe this settles who is number one. Actually, my criticisms were made long before now, indeed right from the beginning. I objected to the course matters were taking. I do not actually see what I am saying as criticism. I am merely demanding that the position be corrected.

['Awn] Where do you stand with regard to the position adopted by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] , which calls for halting the negotiations and escalating the intifadah, and the PLO's position, which attempts to reap the intifadah's political fruits?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, I agreed from the start to participate in the peace process and the negotiations. I believe it was a correct and necessary decision. It was not reasonable for us to stand aloof from the peace process when the very core of the process was the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Hence there is no doubt, no hesitation about my position on our joining the peace process. This does not mean that the peace process is the only option we have to attain our rights. The Palestinian people have the right to resort to all possible methods. I say, however, that the war option is not the right one. However, it is necessary for us to build an intrinsic strength that can play a role in the negotiations. If the intifadah can be more effective, then this is also welcome. The peace process and the intifadah are not mutually exclusive. The peace process does not contradict any other collective, or individual, Palestinian action that can promote the Palestinian cause. I do not accept Hamas' rejection of the negotiations. Nevertheless, if Hamas wishes to take the intifadah to a higher, better level, then I agree.

['Awn] The Palestinians are criticized for lacking mechanisms to control their internal differences. Do you agree that you now need to hold a referendum among the masses inside and outside the occupied territories regarding the negotiations or any other crucial matter, or at least hold a national meeting of the people's representatives and the representatives of the various parties and political groups?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not, at this time, need to hold a referendum. A call has been made, however, to hold a national dialogue to boost the Palestinian position. I add my voice to this call; I have been advocating it for some time. I believe this is my role—to reach a united Palestinian stance based on sound organizational and democratic principles. This is what we need. It must be the objective of any national dialogue. The proposed dialogue is necessary to face the impasse and the critical situation we are facing.

['Awn] Doctor, don't you need to know the views of the masses regarding the two contradictory theories of negotiating or not negotiating? This will help you—the Palestinian leadership—to know who is right.

['Abd-al-Shafi] My own feeling is that the masses... [pauses] Our basic point of reference is the Madrid conference. During that conference and after it, there was massive popular Palestinian backing for the negotiations. The Palestinian masses support the negotiations and the peace. They do not, however, support fruitless negotiations. The popular support has begun to ebb as a result of lack of progress in the talks and because Israel is in control and is constantly altering the features of the land. It was this that caused the ebb of popular support for the talks. However, if this situation changes, I am sure that the masses will back the negotiations. As I said, all we need is to correct the course.

['Awn] There is a view that those who do not have the alternative of war, cannot obtain peace. Does this apply to the Palestinian and Arab negotiators?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Regrettably, it seems that there is weight for power factors, although the prevalent view in the international arena is that weight should be given to legitimacy, UN resolutions, and recognized principles. I do not quite agree with this view. I still maintain and stress that the world and everyone should seek to establish legitimacy, law, human rights, and universally acknowledged principles. The strength of a position should not be characterized only by military capability. An organized and effective society that is capable of asserting itself in all aspects of life is strong and must be reckoned with. I do not quite agree with this view, although Israel bases its stand on military power and nothing else. I hope that this state of affairs will not continue to prevail.

['Awn] Realists say that the Arabs are going to the negotiations to admit their loss and that they are duty bound to shoulder their responsibility and not break the mirror. Do you agree with this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I did not take part in the negotiations to bargain over the basic rights of the Palestinian people. I will absolutely not bargain over them and there is no justification to bargain over our rights. We have conceded a great deal of our national rights for the sake of a just peace. As the saying goes, we reached the bottom line and cannot make any new concession.

['Awn] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], in a television interview, signed a paper in which he pledged he will be in Palestine in two years time. Do you share his optimism?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I share his wish. This is the wish of every Palestinian. Because of the ordeal we have passed through, we have become emotional, and it seems that sometimes we are ruled by our emotions. However, [?we hope so]

['Awn] Gaza is your birthplace. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres recently proposed that self-rule begins in the Gaza Strip. What do the people of the Gaza Strip think of this proposal?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First, we are not negotiating over Gaza alone. We are negotiating over all the occupied territories. The Gaza Strip has no particularities that force us to deal with it in a special way. The Israeli party did not put forward an official stand on Gaza. We only heard statements, but we cannot deal with statements. The official position must be put forward, but so far nothing has been put forward. However, if the aim is to begin implementing an agreement in Gaza first, we can discuss this issue. But we will not deal with the Gaza issue in a special way. We must reach an agreement on the issue on its entirety, that is, the issue of the occupied territories. We take into account that the people's suffering in the Gaza Strip makes them impatient for Israeli withdrawal.

['Awn] Certain pragmatists believe that to obtain land sometimes requires conceding some history and making concessions. What are the maximum concessions you can make before you are forced to resign your post as head of the negotiating delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I must go back to history and maintain that the Palestinians have a right to entire Palestine. Our right to self-determination should apply to Palestine in its entirety. However, we waged a bitter struggle against forces who were by far much stronger than ourselves, in the sense that we constantly waged a losing military struggle. The PNC adopted a peace initiative in November 1988 on the basis of establishing a Palestinian state. This means that we realistically recognized the existence of Israel as a state. This was a very big concession in which we conceded a great deal of our rights. In fact, there is no room for any more concessions. We cannot cede one inch of our occupied territories.

['Awn] Last question, in your youth you liked riding bikes. As you know this is very difficult at the beginning but soon becomes very easy. If we compare the process of the negotiations with riding a bike, what stage have the negotiations reached?

['Abd-al-Shafi] All I want to say is that the negotiations have been and still are at an impasse because the Israeli party has not committed itself to the basis of the peace process and the principles of this process. This means that from the outset, the peace process lacked honesty and credibility because of the Israeli position. This stand must be rectified so that this process may advance. When I called for suspending the negotiations, I did not mean giving up our commitment to the principle of peace. Our commitment is there, and we are ready to participate in an honest and credible negotiating process.

PLO's 'Abbas Discusses Talks, Deportees, Gaza First

JN1806204393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu-Mazin] by correspondent Muhammad Kurayshan in Tunis; date not given; on "The Event" program— recorded]

[Text] ['Abbas] In principle, we should realize we are holding very difficult negotiations with the Israelis on a conflict that has been going on since the beginning of this century. Consequently, talk about achieving or not achieving a breakthrough in the peace talks should not be taken into consideration. We must continue negotiations. We will not adopt a take-it-or-leave-it position. This means we may be obliged to accept things that are much less than our people's rights. Indeed, no results were achieved in the ninth round. But, we can say we achieved some breakthrough. For example, in a formal, but, very important issue—the framework of negotiations—an important breakthrough was achieved in that delegates from Jerusalem and from outside the occupied territories participated in these negotiations. This was one of our most important demands after the Madrid conference. In the ninth round, Palestinian representation was completed, so Palestinians from the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and outside the occupied territories are now represented.

We can say what happened in the first two weeks of the ninth round was important. In other words, both the Palestinian and Israeli sides engaged in substance, and deeply discussed such major points as the terms of reference, territorial administration, the Palestinian legislative council, elections, and other issues. The two sides developed concepts on the so-called declaration of principles. But, the two concepts were totally different. Assessing this round, we can say that although there was no breakthrough in the outcome, the round was not a total failure.

[Kurayshan] Brother Abu-Mazin: In the current round in Washington, and in view of the plans and counterplans submitted, what is new about the Marj al-Zuhur deportees? Is there any implicit agreement to exclude the deportee issue from the 10th round?

['Abbas] We should recall that when Israel announced its intention to deport the 400 brothers from the occupied territories to Marj al-Zuhur, Palestinian diplomacy has been active. The Lebanese Government actually responded to us and closed its border. The deportee issue remained a living issue, and we obtained Resolution 799, which provides for repatriating all these deportees. Moreover, we raised the issue of deportation in principle. We also managed to obtain approval to repatriate deportees expelled more than 27 years ago, such as the 30 deportess who have returned home.

For us, then, the deportee issue is a key issue that we have been pursuing vigorously from the beginning. You may have noticed the issue of the deportees of Marj al-Zuhur figured on the agenda of the ninth round and the human rights committee. We are raising the Marj al-Zuhur deportee issue at the 10th round. These deportess are an integral part of our people. They must be repatriated. At the same time, we demand the repatriation of all other deportees.

[Kurayshan] Brother Abu-Mazin: Where do you stand on the so-called zones of influence in the West Bank and the Gaza First proposition promoted by Israel?

['Abbas] Let us trace the developments from the beginning. The Gaza First proposition was first floated by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Rabin's relevant remark should not be taken out of context. We must rememember that Gaza is not a separate issue from the Palestinian question. Yitzhaq Rabin said: If we manage to hammer out a declaration of principles, then we may possibly withdraw from Gaza first. Our response was as follows: If we reached a declaration of principles for the interim period covering Gaza and the West Bank and the possibility of a withdrawal from Gaza or any other part arose, that would be fine by us. Under such a scenario, we would not be separating Gaza and the West Bank; the two would complement each other. If withdrawal happens from one chunk of territory, this is not to say that we are abandoning the other parts. It means that other withdrawals will follow as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 242, which envisages full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories. We are giving specific instructions to our delegation in Washington to drive home the message to all concerned that we will never relinquish a single inch of the territories conquered in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

'Arafat on Peace Talks, Increased U.S. Involvement

NC1806180693 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Jun 93 pp 14, 15, 71

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sana' al-Sa'id in Tunis on 16 June]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] It seemed to many people that the Palestinians made a concession when they participated in the ninth round. What about the 10th round, which opened yesterday? Was your participation in it in response to U.S. and Arab pressure?

['Arafat] There was no U.S. pressure in the first place. However, we received U.S. promises, only some of which were fulfilled. Most of them have not been implemented so far.

[Al-Sa'id] What are the promises that have been implemented?

['Arafat] The participation of representatives from Jerusalem through Faysal al-Husayni, who represented Jerusalem in the talks, the return of some of the old-time deportees, although the number was not enough, and the increase in the number of the new deportees who may return. But the rest of the promises were not honored.

[Al-Sa'id] What are the promises that have not been fulfilled?

['Arafat] We have been promised confidence-building measures in the occupied Arab territories, but the situation inside the occupied territories is still the same—the iron-fist policy, organized state terrorism, daily violations of human rights, and the isolation of Jerusalem as the capital of our state and our religious, national, and pan-Arab heritage. The settlement-building process is still going on, with the confiscation of land, and the miserable economic situation in the occupied territories and the famine in Gaza still exist.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the linkage between the transitional and final stages, and what about the negotiations' terms of reference?

['Arafat] There is no dispute about this. The U.S. view calls for linking the interim and final stages and for commitment to the negotiations' terms of reference, which are based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the guarantee that the U.S. stand on these points has not changed?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly we want a clear affirmation from the U.S. Administration on the points I have mentioned. Therefore, we sent a message to the United States inquiring about 10 points. Following intense talks with the Palestinian leadership in Amman, a Palestinian delegation went to Washington to discuss all these issues and details with the U.S. Administration. This happened before the start of the current round, the 10th round of the bilateral talks.

[Al-Sa'id] Will this round yield positive results different from those achieved in the previous nine rounds?

['Arafat] First, participation in the 10th round was based on the outcome of our talks with the U.S. side. It is true that we are linked to the peace process according to our agreement with our brother Arab foreign ministers during our meetings, be it those held in Damascus, Egypt, or Amman. But at the same time we have our own position proceeding from the promises we received from the U.S. Administration, which we expect to be honored.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people believe that the Clinton administration has disregarded the Bush administration's clarification that it acknowledged the Palestinian people's political rights and the negotiations' terms of reference based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

['Ararat] This is not clearly evident so far. However, there is a Palestinian and Arab desire that the U.S. Administration confirm its commitment to the terms of reference, including the letter of guarantees, the letter of invitation, and former President Bush's initiative.

[Al-Sa'id] This means you are still asking the U.S. Administration to clarify the points you raised?

['Arafat] Yes. We are still asking the United States to clarify its position on some issues.

[Al-Sa'id] The United States is clearly biased toward Israel. With every round of negotiations, it emerges with separate deals with Israel. Before the ninth round, it concluded the 1 February package [with Israel on the deportees' return], which violated UN Resolution 799 on the deportees. At the end of the round, it offered another deal, calling it a compromise to@bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestinians and reach a joint declaration of principles.

['Arafat] I would like to emphasize that Israel has kept none of its promises conveyed to us by the Americans. When we discuss the United States we must be more precise in our criticism. There is a strategic military and political alliance between Israel and the United States—that involved the previous U.S. Administration as well as this one. This is the challenge facing Clinton's administration. Will it be an honest and fair sponsor or will it maintain its agreements with and bias toward Israel?

[Al-Sa'id] What is the solution?

['Arafat] The solution is in the way the U.S. Administration will handle the talks as a full partner. Will it use the logic of the honest sponsor or that of a party biased toward Israel? How will it deal with international legitimacy, with one standard or double standards? Is there one legitimacy in favor of Israel and another against the Arab nation and the Palestinians?

[Al-Sa'id] The United States practiced double standards when it circumvented Resolution 799 on the deportees.

['Arafat] Despite the importance of Resolution 799, it should be clear that we accepted a timetable for the return of the deportees within a few months. This is something for the U.S. Administration to handle. We are waiting to see whether it and Israel will keep their promises.

[Al-Sa'id] How many months does this timetable cover?

['Arafat] We have received no timetable. I say that if the deportees issue is important, we have far more serious issues than the deportation and Resolution 799. Jerusalem is much more important. We also have the policy of deportations in general and Israel's daily crimes violating all human rights agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention. We also have Israel's mad military escalation, organized official terrorism, and a policy of siege, starvation, and an iron fist.

[Al-Sa'id] All this takes place without American condemnation?

['Arafat] Neither American nor international. The world watches as a spectator. Betzelem, Israel's human rights organization, condemned Israel for killing children. It said that May—when negotiations were taking place—was the bloodiest of all months, when 39 people, including 13 children, were killed, and 1,198 were wounded. Despite these huge figures, no one did anything.

[Al-Sa'id] Some are afraid that America may be playing for time and that, for America, the ultimate solution is to liquidate the issue.

['Arafat] No one can liquidate our issue. The region will face complete chaos and Balkanization unless peace is established on the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement. Such a settlement must take into account the rights of the Arabs and Palestinians and must abide by the norms of international legitimacy. A Middle East settlement should be based on George Bush's announcement on 6 March 1991 concerning the exchange of land for peace and the need for the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. This means that Israel should withdraw from all Arab and Palestinian land including Jerusalem, that the legitimate political rights of the

Palestinians people should be upheld, and that security should be guaranteed for everyone.

[Al-Sa'id] When you say complete chaos, are you referring to the rising tide of Islamic violence and extremism in the region?

['Arafat] I mean everything that the word conjures up. An apocalypse will break out, and it will bury everyone.

[Al-Sa'id] Some believe that this is America's last chance and that if the peace process does not work U.S. credibility and status will be eroded. America says that this is the Arabs' last chance and that they have to grab it or live with the consequences forever.

['Arafat] We have to remember that peace is not just an Arab or Palestinian quest, but it is Israeli, European, and U.S. as well, because stability in the Middle East is so important for U.S. and European interests. We must not forget that our region has the biggest strategic oil reserves in the world.

[Al-Sa'id] Can this then be America's last chance?

['Arafat] If the peace process founders, complete anarchy will prevail, and the area will be Balkanized. I warn of the consequences and the looming apocalypse.

[Al-Sa'id] But are not we, the Arabs, going to be the ones to pay?

['Arafat] No, we will not be the only ones. Everyone will, particularly Israel. When I say Balkanization I mean it in every sense of the word. The first to suffer will be Israel. American interests will also suffer.

[Al-Sa'id] America has been making promises but not keeping them. How can the Palestinians break out of their tight spot?

['Arafat] The Palestinians, we must remember, have many options. Our intifadah and resistance are continuing.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel hopes that in time it will be able to liquidate and terminate the intifadah.

['Arafat] It cannot and will never be able to. When the intifadah started Yitzhaq Rabin, who was defense minister and on a visit to New York at the time, was asked about it. He replied disparagingly: What intifadah? Once I am back in Israel, I will smash it in two days. I answered him then by saying: "No you will not, not in two days, weeks, months, or years." The intifadah has been going strong for 67 months now.

[Al-Sa'id] But it may be said the intifadah has eaten its own children. Its Palestinian victims far exceed its Israeli victims.

['Arafat] Whoever wants to liberate his homeland does not count the victims. As the saying goes: "Kingdoms are built by victims." Whoever appreciates his homeland does not count the victims. Our people, praise be to the lord, are fully prepared to offer tremendous sacrifice.

[Al-Sa'id] The United States is pressuring some Arab countries to lift the boycott against Israel and has succeeded with some. Does this harm you?

['Arafat] We categorically reject lifting the boycott against Israel, because that would mean rewarding Israel without it giving anything in return. The Arab boycott should continue and should never be lifted unless Israel signs an all-embracing peace agreement with everyone.

[Al-Sa'id] Some may say the boycott is nominal and is not being applied.

['Arafat] If this is true, why would Israel endeavor to lift the boycott and why would it announce its losses because of the boycott? Why would Israel ask the United States to pressure Arab sides to cancel the boycott, if it is only nominal and is not in force?

[Al-Sa'id] What is required of the United States now to advance the peace process and achieve a fair solution?

['Arafat] The United States must be a full, fair, and neutral partner. So it must use one standard, not two, and be farsighted in safeguarding its interests in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres recently stated that Israel might welcome a federation or a confederation with the Palestinians. What is your opinion?

['Arafat] Peres did not say that. He mentioned a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He also said Israel might take part in it. But our Palestine National Council in 1983 adopted a decision binding the Palestinian leadership and people to establish the strongest Palestinian-Jordanian ties based on confederation and in line with the free and voluntary choice of the two fraternal peoples.

[Al-Sa'id] At every opportunity, Israel says Jerusalem is Israeli and is Israel's eternal capital. Israel is encouraged by Jerusalem still being deliberately excluded from the negotiations.

['Arafat] Among the things upon which we differ with Israel on the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian levels is Jerusalem. Regrettably, for the first time in Christian history, the Holy Sepulcher was closed during Easter. Also regrettably, al-Aqsa Mosque was closed to Palestinians who came from their villages and towns to perform the 'Id prayers. Israel is feverishly confiscating land in and around Jerusalem and is setting up a cordon of settlements to bring more settlers to the region.

This is against the UN resolutions, the letter of assurances, and the letter of invitation, which says no party shall take measures on the ground that will adversely affect the course of the talks. Israel's crimes in Jerusalem directly affect the course of the talks because Jerusalem for us—Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians—is a red line.

[Al-Sa'id] In a bid to deal with substantive issues in the peace process, is it possible to undertake a new initiative to discuss these issues at a meeting to be held in Cairo of the foreign ministers of the negotiating parties, including Israel? Faruq Qaddumi [head of the PLO Political Department] will attend on behalf of the Palestinians.

['Arafat] So far, the Israelis do not recognize the PLO. Egypt is undertaking initiatives and a constructive role in this connection. Egypt is playing the role of a full partner and not a mediator. Regrettably, Israel's stand is intransigent, not only with regard to a dialogue with the PLO, but also with regard to the Palestinian people and issue.

[Al-Sa'id] The tracks of the talks and the nonlinkage between them create sensitivities for the parties participating in the peace talks. If Syria is given a chance to restore its territory through an agreement with Israel, will this harm you?

['Arafat] In all their sessions the Arab foreign ministers have agreed on a comprehensive solution rather than bilateral solutions. We have agreed on this and there is no going back on it.

[Al-Sa'id] However, don't you agree with me that if any Arab territory is liberated, this is a gain for all the Arabs? We must not link the different tracks. In other words, if Syria can restore its territory, why not? It is unreasonable to link the liberation of the Golan with a solution of the Palestinian issue, which might take five years.

['Arafat] My words are clear when I say we have agreed on a comprehensive solution and not separate solutions. This is an agreement among us, to which all adhere.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that progress on each track is linked to progress on the other tracks?

['Arafat] Yes, we have agreed on this.

[Al-Sa'id] Generally speaking, Israel is exploiting this point.

['Arafat] This is Israel's stand. At the same time, there is a cautious Arab stand by all parties to foil Israel's attempt to break the Arab ranks.

[Al-Sa'id] Tunisia will host the refugee committee of the multilateral talks in October or November. What do you hope for?

['Arafat] The committee met twice before. Tunisia will host the committee in November. Our position is known. We insist on the subject of the refugees as a whole so that it will not be divided into the subject of the 1967 refugees and the subject of the 1948 refugees. The Palestinians number 7 million people. Sixty percent of them live outside the land, and 40 percent live inside. We adhere to Resolution 149. Instructions in this respect have been issued by the refugee committee of the multilateral talks.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you feel Israel is serious about peace? Has Yitzhaq Rabin proven to be better and more flexible?

['Arafat] Of course not. Up to this moment, it has been proven that the slogans of the Labor Party are no different from those of Likud. If the expressions are different, the essence remains the same.

[Al-Sa'id] Will it be possible to reach an agreement or a semiagreement in 1993? Some parties, like Jordan, are optimistic.

['Arafat] Israel is trying to avoid the basic issues, especially on the Palestinian track, where nothing significant has been achieved although 20 months have elapsed since the negotiations started. The negotiations were not supposed to last more than a year. They say that the interim period will be two years, and we say that it will be one year, after which the final stage will begin.

[Al-Sa'id] The fact that the talks went beyond schedule means that the peace process will protract.

['Arafat] No. Every day that passes after the scheduled one-year period will be deducted from the interim period. It was agreed from the beginning that the talks would continue for one year and that the interim period would last two years after that. Therefore, every day that passes will be deducted from the interim period. If the talks take three years, for example, there will be no interim period and we will directly enter the final stage.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Israel's argument that an agreement about Gaza can be reached first? If this happens, can you take and run Gaza?

['Arafat] If Israel wants to withdraw from any piece of land, it should hand it over to the United Nations. It is necessary to have a link between Gaza and the West Bank to maintain the principle of territorial integrity. The solution must be within the framework of this principle. The Palestinian Arab land is indivisible.

Habash Criticizes PLO Leaders, U.S. Administration

JN1806200893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by correspondent Sana al-Imam in Damascus; date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Habash] A thorough observation of the international and official Arab situation makes us believe it is very difficult for an American settlement to fulfill the minimum level of national Palestinian demands. Why? Because America governs the current international situation. Europe and Russia follow America.

With regard to the official Arab situation, we say with regret that even the steadfast states themselves are no longer steadfast. The official Palestinian stand, I mean the stand of the PLO leadership... [pauses] when we consider all these objective international and Arab circumstances, as well as the PLO's stand, which is in harmony with the American settlement, we can say such a settlement cannot achieve the minimum level of Palestinian aspirations. No real peace will prevail in the region before achieving the Palestinian people's objective of independence, that is, self-determination, a shate, and the return of Palestinian refugees. That is the minimum. Based on that, we categorically reject such a settlement.

You might ask: What is your alternative? The alternative is represented by the following:

There is the intifadah. Our people reject this settlement. There is also national Palestinian unity, that is, consolidating Palestinian ranks. Then, there is the international legitimacy that gives us our right to a state, to self-determination, to removing the settlements, to East Jerusalem, and to a minimum level of our national objectives. So, there is the intifadah. There is Palestinian unity and international legitimacy. These are our alternatives for settling the Palestinian question at this point.

[Al-Imam] Since the beginning of the Madrid conference, the Palestinian arena has seen differences emerge, to the extent that sometimes a Palestinian party accuses another of treason. What factors led to this situation?

[Habash] First, it is wrong for any Palestinian party to accuse another Palestinian party of treason. I am convinced our Palestinian people should unite to achieve a minimum level of their national objectives.

My interpretation of the divisions in the Palestinian ranks, at this delicate point, is that the party rejecting the American settlement feels this settlement is, in fact, a liquidation. A settlement should achieve international legitimacy and what that gives us. After all these sacrifices, most Palestinian people cannot agree that our cause ends with self-rule.

[Al-Imam] Dr. George Habash: The PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] is one of the factions affiliated with the PLO. It participates in PLO command bodies and popular organizations. How can you accommodate your opposition to the PLO leadership with their decision to participate in the peace process?

[Habash] I would like to explain that we, as the PFLP, are not participating in any way in this settlement. The answer to your question is the following:

We differentiate between the PLO, as an entity and a home for all Palestinian people, and the PLO leadership. The PLO is an entire Palestinian entity. It is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is the national Palestinian program. This is one thing. The PLO leadership is another thing. Whenever the PLO leadership adheres to this program it will really represent all the Palestinian people. But, when this leadership deviates from this program it no longer represents the Palestinian people.

[Al-Imam] Dr. George Habash: Within the framework of its opposition to the talks, the PFLP has become an ally of parties not affiliated with the PLO, which is considered by the PFLP as the political manifestation of the Palestinian people. In your opinion, will this lead to national Palestinian unity, and how? Doesn't this weaken the position of the Palestinian negotiator?

[Habash] We believe Palestinian unity includes all influential Palestinian forces in the Palestinian arena. Hamas emerged in the intifadah. Hamas is now a force that can stand up to Israel. Can we ignore such a force? National unity should include all forces, inside and outside the PLO. If the PLO leadership is aware of the importance of this weapon, it will use it to reach its objectives.

Peace Activist Seeks Rabin, 'Arafat Meeting

NC2006163593 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, June 20 (AFP)—Israeli peace activist Abi Nathan has vowed to do his best to set up a face-to-face encounter between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to advance the Middle East peace talks.

Nathan, after talks with 'Arafat in Tunis, proposed a six-month halt of the Palestinian intifadah on the Israeli-occupied territories in exchange for a direct dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel.

"If Mr. 'Arafat agreed to call a halt in violence for first six months..., this would be ample justification for a (government) dialogue with the PLO," Nathan told AFP on Saturday [19 June].

"I will do everything in my power to secure a meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. 'Arafat as soon as possible," he said.

Nathan said the PLO chairman was "sad and disappointed" because of foot-dragging in the Middle East peace talks, which resumed in Washington last week.

Israel earlier this year lifted a ban on meetings between Israelis and PLO officials but the government is still opposed to official talks with the organisation.

Nathan said he told 'Arafat that many people in Israel, including members of the government, were willing to "recognise and negotiate with the PLO."

The activist, who has been jailed in Israel for meeting Arafat before the ban was lifted, also said he wanted to travel to Libya with a "serious proposal" for a trial in the Netherlands to end Tripoli's standoff with the West.

Libya has been slapped with U.N. sanctions since April 1992 over its refusal to cooperate with western investigations into plane attacks, notably the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Nathan, who said he had the backing of Amnesty International and the International Federation of Human Rights, said he would urge Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to make "some concession."

The initiative would pave the way for the trial in the Netherlands of two Libyans accused by the United States and Britain of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing, he said.

Libya has agreed in principle to the visit and he was awaiting a visa.

'Arafat Congratulates Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN2006092893 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has congratulated Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on his reelection for a second term in office. President Abu-'Ammar's cable on this occasion reads:

Our militant Palestinian people, who are continuing their brave national steadfastness and resistance and who stand with pride and loftiness in the face of the criminal Israeli occupation, are confident that the Islamic Republic of Iran—leadership, [word indistinct], government, and people—will increase its support to reinforce this (?struggle) they are waging under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, to end the Israeli occupation of their land and holy places, to restore and exercise their national and inalienable legitimate rights, and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat To Attend OAU Summit in Cairo 28 Jun

NC1806115593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo have announced that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will attend the OAU summit due to begin in Cairo on 28 June.

The sources told MENA that the PLO has been attending OAU meetings as an observer since 1974, although Palestine is not part of Africa. This demonstrates the African countries' support for Palestinian self-determination.

The sources said the Palestinian president will hold extensive talks with several African leaders on the sidelines of the summit. These discussions will focus on Palestinian developments, ways of promoting Palestinian-African relations, and various regional and international issues.

Algeria

Islamists Reportedly Kill Soldiers; News Blackout Imposed

JN1906074393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Qusayy Salih al-Darwish dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] Several reliable sources have reported the killing of a great number of Algerian soldiers last Sunday/Monday night by armed Islamic groups. The sources said that between 40 and 50 soldiers have been killed and others wounded.

According to some sources, an Army unit fell into an ambush set up by an armed group on (Cheria?) mountain near Blida. The unit was carrying out a security cleanup operation in the region, searching for armed Islamist men who had made this mountain a hideout and a springboard for their operations in Blida and adjacent areas, including the capital. The sources say that the soldiers discovered two armed men in a hideout and were able to kill them. They did not suspect the presence of other armed men around them. Thus, the armed groups wiped out the Army unit and withdrew quietly to another hideout. The Army command discovered the killings only at 0930 on Monday.

In another version, other sources say that armed groups attacked a barracks on the same mountain and killed between 43 and 50 soldiers, making off with a great quantity of arms and ammunition.

Regardless of which story is true, the operation dealt a violent shock to the military command, which now realizes the great number of these groups and the arms and ammunition they possess.

Some 10,000 soldiers have been scouring the mountainous region, using various types of military aircraft. It is said that during the campaign, the military forces discovered several hideouts, a hospital, and a training center. No information is available on whether any arrests have been made because since Monday, the Algerian authorities have imposed a complete news blackout on this operation.

Security Forces Kill Terrorist in Algiers Province

LD1806203793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The security services of Algiers province confirmed today that the security forces managed yesterday to kill a terrorist in the quarter of Diar El Kef in Algiers before he could carry out an assassination operation against a policeman.

The same source added that terrorist, Ait Meziane Karim, was besieged by the security forces while he was preparing to carry out another terrorist operation. During the exchange of fire, a policeman was slightly injured and the terrorist, in whose possession ammunition and an automatic Beretta pistol model were found, was killed. It [the pistol] is the weapon that was stolen from the police constable, Choukou Abdelkader, who was assassinated on the 13 March in Cherarba. The same source added that the terrorist, Ait Meziane Karim, was wanted by the police and was involved in the killing of the writer and journalist, Tahar Djaout, and Rebai Toufik, an employee at the Interior Ministry. He was also playing the role of intermediary for Layed Abdelhak, supplying the armed groups active in Bab El Oued [in Algiers] with information.

Abdessalam Delivers Speech To Martyrs' Organization

LD2006100093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1927 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Speech by Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam at the fourth national congress of the Martyrs' Sons Organization in Algiers on 18 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Abdessalam] It is also an honor to be here with you because, as I have already said in the past, I believe that in this country and among this people and nation there are dynamic forces. I consider you to be among the country's dynamic forces because your stances, activeness, and sacrifices have demonstrated on the ground that you are a true force within this nation. However, and perhaps this is an advantage you have over other forces, because you are a dynamic force in the country, you have a duty that emanates from the souls of your parents, the martyrs, whose struggle and sacrifices brought this state and this nation into being and helped it recover its position. [passage omitted]

We all know that within your organization there are problems and attempts to break ranks. [passage omitted]

As I said at the beginning, you are among the dynamic forces in the country and one of the forces that can help with the reconstruction of the country today. This is the historical task that you are facing and to succeed in it, you have to be united. Therefore, I appeal to you to unite, and as a brother I will do my utmost to help you achieve that objective. [passage omitted]

I said that rebuilding and saving this country and nation depends on the unity of the nationalists. By nationalists I mean people who have always believed in the principles of the Algerian nationalist movement ever since it was founded in the 1920's. To be clear, I must say that the forces that can repair the country's backbone of political life are the activists and sympathizers who once belonged to the historic National Liberation Front that liberated the country, and to the nationalist movement before 1954, and who are today scattered here and there.

I believe that they are all patriots, and I do not doubt their patriotism despite the differences of opinion which might exist among them. These differences existed among us before but when we were in the nationalist movement we used to distinguish between what was a difference of opinion and the principles of unity, unity of ranks. There were things we talked about and there were other things we did not talk about because they were matters of principle which could not be disputed.

I think that all these brothers must have noticed that since they split up the country has not benefited. On the contrary, the country has suffered. As new groups in the country's political life they have not benefited from anything at all either. Therefore, I believe that today, as a result of the bitter experience which we have all gone through, we must think of ways to overcome the differences which have divided us and we must also find ways to come together again. To be more precise, I believe that the core of the rank-and-file, the vast numbers of militants, the militant forces which existed in the nationalist movement, namely the National Liberation Front [FLN], have split up and most of them have gone to the so-called Islamic movement, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Some stayed in the FLN, others went to the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] or to Ben Bella because they all followed what they thought were symbols of the past.

Today, it appears that the restoration of unity among all these groups is one of the essential conditions needed to save the country. However, political life ebbs and flows. In this phase of division, there are people who not only left the nationalist movement but who also, with some of their ideas and some of their actions, have separated themselves from the nation. These are the people who turned to crime, to killing their brothers. As far as these people are concerned, there will be no other meeting because they have gone beyond the red line. [applause] As far as these people are concerned, there is only confrontation to crush them and remove them from the scene. Their existence is like a disease and this disease must be eliminated.

However, we must not think without a responsible attitude and we must not conceal some facts. This group has now become a destructive force against the state and the nation. It has also stretched its hand to foreign forces hostile to the country; it deals with foreign forces even if these forces belong to Islamic and Arab states, but for us these are foreign and hostile forces which often obey secret signals from other forces hostile to the Arabs and to Islam. We must not forget that these people have used two weapons. They have used the weapon of shedding blood which they are using every day to kill innocent people. Whatever the identity of these people, whoever falls victim to these people falls victim to crime. We do not exclude those who die because of their ideas, even those who have ideas with which we do not agree. In accordance with our traditions, one of our principles is tolerance and the acceptance of a diversity of views and we will never accept that killing be used as a weapon, either to settle questions in an ideological debate or to settle accounts with a party or a group.

The second weapon used by these people to attract a large section of our society is the mistakes made by our regime which provoked anger among the people. These people used this anger with precision. In fact, these people hold reactionary and retrograde ideas, in other words ideas which run counter to the interests of the people. These ideas, which run counter and are hostile to the interests of the popular masses, are now sometimes supported by popular forces. In any event, this is a diabolical plot hatched by them but it is the result of a political vacuum left by us. I say these things to reach a conclusion and the conclusion is that if we block the path of the criminals, let us not forget that there are people around them, people who look up to them. Maybe they look up to them as people who have the country's future in their hands. There may be people who are calculating to get ready to be with them when they come to power. They are dreaming about it. However, we cannot talk about these people, I will discount them. They are political speculators and people with political greed. [applause] A greedy person remains a greedy person. No argument can change his opinion, the only thing that can change his opinion is his own interest. Today he is with the West, tomorrow he will be with the East ,depending on the result he achieves from his calculations. What matter to me, if I may use this expression, are the ordinary people. I do not mean the people with a simple mind but the people who do not have ulterior motives and people who live with good will, even if they are wrong, but who are driven by good will and not by hypocritical ideas.

We have a duty toward these people. We have a duty to contact them and to continue to be in touch with them, and to convince them that they are wrong and that they are dutybound to reconsider their ideas and choice—if they have ideas and choices. We should not sever the link with these people. We should not sever dialogue with them. We should get in touch with them and try to convince them and restore them to the right path, the good path, so that they may return to the ranks of the national movement. They have their own place in this national movement. We tried to bring them back before they get involved in a manner that would make their return impossible. The path of no return is the path of crime, or contribution to crime. We think that it is the duty of all patriots—and you are from among the patriots, you the people who are carrying the national mission and have the national spirit—to contact all these people and try within all factions of the people and in all quarters and rural areas to spread this idea so that these people will reconsider. [applause] We say it very clearly: the criminals are criminals, and I am a person who took a clear, official, and declared stance—the people who carried arms in order to resist their brothers-in-religion and their brothers in the homeland are not from among us. That is it; they do not belong to us. [applause] They are not from among us. [passage omitted]

But I will not consider the 3 million Algerians who voted for the FIS as enemies. These are not enemies. They are compatriots who for several reasons did not make the right choice for the country. They are citizens and brothers.

We should work to bring them back to the fold and see how their thoughts change and return to the real arena of the political struggle in our country. We cannot accept a criminal within our ranks or accept someone who has ideas that make our state no longer a state. Anyone who believes he has daily direct contact with Almighty God, who passes judgment in the name of religion, or who considers himself to be the carrier of God's mission and therefore entitled to interpret religion and accuse people of blasphemy, is not one of us. [applause] We are all Muslims. [passage omitted]

We raised the slogan of Islam as one of the fundamental values of the country. We did not raise it for commercial reasons; we did not use it for commercial reasons in order to attract people and fault them.[applause] We would be responsible for our mistakes. They have their own responsibility, at any rate. Our regime is responsible for the mistakes it made—the mistakes which have become weapons in the hands of our enemies. Today we are responsible before anybody else and as patriots for making total effort and provide proof to try and convince them; the crux of the conflict lies here. Who will overcome the other? Is our mission not strong? Can we not triumph in this political struggle? Are our ideas weak? Why do we not triumph? Why do we not find within our midst the cultural strength, the strength of principles, and the strength of the dialogue—the conviction—with which we can overcome the others and bring them to our ranks?

I think we must do the same thing with the other factions which existed inside the parties I have just mentioned, because these parties have departed from the ranks of the nationalist movement. That I restricted myself to only mentioning four parties does not mean that I did not give any value to the others. The others existed before and right from early times. We coexisted with them. They were not in the nationalist movement—in the genuine nationalist movement. They existed as political currents which existed in the country and in Algerian society. In any event, they existed as a minority. We coexisted with them. At times we took part with them in certain things. We were not one party or one movement. But some time, due to some circumstances or other, we used to meet and work together. We used to agree over certain points without any side giving away anything that concerns questions of principle. Each safeguarded and believed in his principles.

We are calling, however, for the unification of the ranks of the nationalists. At the same time, I warn you as a militant. I stand here before you, but you should not see me as a prime minister. When I speak, forget that I am prime minister and remember that I speak as a militant. We must not forget. We must not forget as nationalists. There are some political, ideological, or doctrinal minorities; you can call them what you wish. When they came into contact with the people—the Algerian people who are spread over all the regions of the homeland—they find themselves to be a minority, so much so that they sometimes even felt ashamed as a minority.

What did they do? They felt isolated, especially after we entered the time of the plurality. When there was a single party, many things were concealed. There were some benefits from this, but also some shortcomings—many things were concealed. Nevertheless, the benefits were more than the shortcomings. The benefits exceeded the harmful things, as the holy Koran says.

When we arrived at the time of plurality, things came to the surface. Some people felt that this made them a minority and that they have lost influence over the people. They had immunity like the human body's immunity. If the body has immunity, germs which enter the body die because of its immunity system. They felt they were in a similar relationship with the Algerian people, and that they cannot enter this body [words indistinct]. They felt they were a minority on account of their thoughts, and that the ideas they held would never give them an opportunity to rule or influence the Algerian people, unless they ruled directly.

Therefore, they used another method, a method that is known in French—and people who are involved in party politics know it—as l' entrisme [entryism]. The key strategy in this is that they stay here bidding their time before their maneuvers of infiltration. They infiltrate the body, and head straight down to the start. [applause]. Therefore, they could create more fuss then their real strength. If you count them you can see that they are a minority but when you see the fuss they were making it is no wonder what was happening in the country. You should be very careful with such people. However, such people could not infiltrate the body unless the latter is asleep. Hence, the nationalist people should have the courage for a spirited political move, because everything really does depend upon them. Once nationalist people are united and know how to be united taking into consideration the need to deal with sensitive and fateful issues facing the country and know how to explain them to the people, they will be a force that would prevent any other force from harming the country. Coexistence is possible. As far as some people—whom I have already named in the past, and there is no need to name them again—are concerned, I say to them: You have only two choices. You can urge a fight against so-called fundamentalism, religious extremism, their criminal activities, and the way a number of people are trying to portray Islam, making everyone and anyone who talks in the name of Islam as one of them - putting us all in one basket—believing that you will be able, through your fight against fundamentalism and those criminals, to eliminate the national movement and its ideas, make yourselves the masters and imposing your own ideas on the country. This will not be allowed. [applause] The choice is therefore yours: You could choose to side with those people, but once they gain power they will do to you the same as in Tehran or in Kabul. They will hang you without even allowing you to say a word. As far as we, the nationalists who believe in their own strength and in their country, are concerned, we will coexist with you, we will allow you to live, we will be tolerant toward you, cracking jokes with you, laughing with you, and making you happy. We will not allow you to govern us, but we will make you happy, you can live as you want, you can say whatever you want, and you can criticize as you wish. We are not afraid of you. [applause]

We do not fear you because we believe that your presence represents a sign of our strength. We are capable of living, and managing and controlling our country while you exist here; you will not affect us. This is proof and evidence that we are strong. Therefore, if you want to live in this country, use and defend your ideas. You must help us; you must stand by us; you should not try to impose [passage indistinct]. You should not try to tarnish our reputation and enact the role of others. Looking at the situation in an objective way, the role that you are playing strengthens the rank of the other side. From the outside you represent the side of the enemies. In reality you are allies of the enemy because your attitudes consolidate the ranks of the people of the side who claims that the current regime in the country is not an Islamic regime; that it is not a regime which believes in Islam; that this is an anti-Islam regime, whereas the people are committed to Islam.

Beware. You must choose from either of these two facts: If you want this country to enjoy a democratic atmosphere, you must support the current regime; you must back the national people's army and the forces of security who are carrying out their duties. [applause] You should not engage in a political role that is manipulated by our enemies and enemies of this country. They use this role as a pretext, and in the name of a holy war. There is no place for a holy war in this country because we are all Muslims. We all believe in this country. Even if there were atheists, let their fate be decided between them and our God Almighty. This land remains a sacred land, a land of Islam. It will not change. [applause] This is our slogan.

In this context, we believe these forces, present here among you, can play an important role. You played a significant role during the march of 22 March; you played a very important role. At the time, the government issued instructions to all departments to encourage the establishment of a political movement from the people to work alongside all the movements that took part in that march. Here, I am talking about the movements who played a genuine role in the march of 22 March; the movements that supported this march in spirit, real participation, human resources, and who encouraged the people to join the march.

We are not talking about those individuals who resort to trickery in the streets instead of merging with the folks and the people and joining the ranks of the people. They just allow themselves to hide in the streets waiting for the march to approach, then jump to the front line [applause] and appear to be leading the march like the male goat leading the herd [laughter and applause]. However, it is only a male goat. We are talking about the real individuals who are connected with the people and honest with the people. Therefore, you have a role to play in this field. However, we should not forget that this role is difficult in our current circumstances, because the past has made a number of things difficult to eliminate within a short period. Our current apparatus is an apparatus influenced by some ideas, an apparatus linked to certain interests. I pointed out in my first speech as a prime minister last July that there were a group of interests. In any case, those are individuals who built ideas and projects, and those projects were not compatible with the national interest. Therefore, the policy we pursued was a policy of national redress, which is incompatible with those interests.

Therefore, we must not be surprised to see that what they are doing is not what is desired.

The battle is manifold. There is the battle of contacting the people; here also there are obstacles. There is one who is lying in wait, there is the saboteur, there is one who obstructs, and there is one who stands directly against us. It is a battle.

At the start of my speech, I said that we should close and unite the ranks of nationalists in this country, because there is a holy war in progress in this country, a holy war for the reconstruction of the country. Some people say that the people in government today belong to the old generation. This is true; we belong to the old generation [applause], the old generation that built the country, the generation that believes in its country, the generation that knows how this country was build. [passage omitted].

The young generation still believes in the principles of the generation of November. However, there is need for a trigger-mechanism regarding all nationalists so that all these forces reunite, close ranks, and consolidate between themselves to recover their previous strength to build the country. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the conclusion that we can draw today is that more than half of Algerians have no idea what it was like to live under occupation. They have no idea about Algeria during the period of the struggle of liberation; they remember it as an independent Algeria. Generally speaking, they reached the age of consent at the end of the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's. They opened their eyes to a different situation; they have no idea about what it was like to live under occupation or before occupation; they only see the current situation. Therefore, they react and behave according to what they see and experience. Unfortunately, what they saw during the past years was not pleasant; I would not like to use other terms. [passage omitted]

We should take into account this reality. We should show this young nationalist generation that there are some real problems, among them the problem of population that has forced the number of Algerians to increase three-fold within one generation. Despite all the efforts of the government to meet the needs of all the people, there was bound to be some shortages and shortcomings.

However, there is another point. Some people wondered why they should follow a policy of austerity; they stated that they should live; they preferred the present to the future; they marginalized and sacrificed the future. We are living this future now; because of the shortage of capabilities, we are forced to admit that we cannot solve all the problems of this young generation now and immediately.

However, we must convince the youth that their fate and future depend upon rebuilding the country and returning to the spirit of the past, the spirit which liberated the country from colonialism and began its rebuilding. When we talk about the past we do not do so to sing its praises. No, we talk about it to understand its principles and ideals and arm ourselves with them to rebuild our country upon sound bases by taking into our consideration our bitter experience and our past mistakes. History might, however, record this new attempt as a new revolution—a new revolution to get rid of our internal problems. [passage omitted] We must not forget that our country is still holding out thanks to the liberation army, i.e. the People's National Army, which is the offspring of the liberation army. Our army is a people's and a national army; it is not an army of mercenaries and an army of executioners. It is an army that has been forced to confront criminal Algerian citizens. Of course, it was not trained to confront Algerians; it was trained to defend the homeland, its boundaries, its sovereignty, and its institutions. [Applause] The army, which includes the gendarmerie, and the rest of the security forces, the police, are the ones who have been keeping the state together and preventing it from falling apart. However, the army should not be left on its own, because they are not defending a system that is of concern only to them. On the contrary, they are defending the nation. Therefore, the latter should mobilize behind them. It will be a mobilization that can only be accomplished through a broad popular movement that includes popular forces—foremost of which is the youth—to hasten the end of those criminal acts that are being perpetrated in the country, and allow people to go back to the real work of deciding how to resolve the real problems facing the country. This is our prerogative.

This is our duty [to protect people]. The soldier and policeman face death daily. We cannot ask them for more. We must also work, each one from his post, and encourage them. We should give guarantees that their sacrifices will not go in vain; that the people are convinced and are behind them. This work should apply in all sectors. Therefore, we issued instructions that people's committees be set up in districts and municipalities during this period in time to supervise local issues of citizens. We live in an independent country. Citizens should take part in solving our problems. With some field practice, we will be able to learn and understand the major issues of the country gradually. We will be able to learn how to solve them. Gradually, we will have a chance to provide the real and objective conditions to implement democracy, genuine democracy that stems from the real issues of the country in accordance with the principle choices of people and country in the interest of the country.

You are responsible for these committees, you and other organizations that are deeply rooted in the people's groups, be they working classes or cadres. If you play this role, we believe that you will form a real part of the dynamic forces in the country. This is what is expected of you. This does not mean that, as prime minister, I do not take into consideration your matters, or that I am not interested in your demands as groups in society. I am aware of some of your problems. In the past we tried and we will keep on trying to improve the situation for everybody; we will also see to it that you occupy a suitable position in national life activity.

On this occasion it gives me pleasure to say that in these difficult circumstances when the state needed people to shoulder difficult responsibilities, those who heeded the appeal by state came from your ranks [applause] in many areas, especially in forming the administrative councils that succeeded the municipal councils which were dissolved. Some of you were martyred in this field. Many of you assumed responsibilities without protection; you were exposed to danger, yet you assumed your responsibilities. People must know this. [passage omitted]

In our conduct, in our ideas, and in our orientations there are things that we accept and others we do not. We do not accept that the Algerian state is humiliated. We do not accept that officials of the Algerian state should bow. [applause]

At the same time we should not be stubborn when it comes to interests. We are not individuals of stubborn heads without justification, but merely individuals who know what is available and what is not, and behave wisely when possible. Thanks be to God, one thing we must tell you: It is true your country is in difficult circumstances. However, your country still stands on a sound foundation. [passage omitted]

However, if the country wants really to overcome the crisis, it should adopt a program and see it through. Rulers come and go. Even if one of them wants to stay God might not allow him to do so. He might die in an accident, have a heart attack, or be killed by a blow from the criminals [the fundamentalists]. Therefore one should not hang the future of a country upon an individual or individuals but upon a clear, well-defined, and agreed-upon political program. This political program, in particular the economic field, has begun to earn credibility from our foreign dealers even though they have yet to accept it or be happy with it. They have, nonetheless, started to say, albeit slowly: You have a program. There are countries that have been writing to us telling us that they were prepared to implement our program. These things take time and will become clearer in due course. However, success does no longer depend on the outside world. We can win over the outside world. This should not be a problem because the outside world will be happy to deal with something sound, but I would not say with the stronger. The outside world would cooperate with someone who is sound and serious. The outside world would respect someone who is sound and serious in his work because relations with the outside are based upon interests; when they find someone serious in the country they will cooperate with him. Therefore, if there is a failure, it will come from inside the country, from the forces inside the country, which have been trying to jeopardise our policies and have been trying to create trouble, doubts, and wrong expectation to make the country fail. You should look at this problem and address it. I am not here to give you a lesson; you should try to understand matters yourselves and use your own judgement. Of course, we should talk to each other. You have the right to ask questions, and I hope that we will have other opportunities in the near future to talk to each other. However, every one of us should understand for himself matters which concern the country. If we were to follow what I have just proposed, I think the country might be saved. The signs of our success have begun to emerge. Of course, some people have become mad like enraged dogs; they are afraid that matters will become clearer.

We will give the proof of why in the future. Thus, we must be on the alert and we must enlist. There are foreigners who tell me the policy you are pursuing is one of austerity: Will the people accept it? Your people will not accept it, will not accept the measures which you have imposed; perhaps it will rise against them. Will our people reject them because they serve your interests? I told them to contemplate just one thing: This beaten people, facing difficulties and living in harsh circumstances—even in the fasting month of Ramadan and at other times when people were stung by big price rises put up by some people, and we could not overcome these problems—did not cry in protest and there was no chaos. The people know and feel the harm but have hope. They wait and are being patient, because they do not want to spoil the chances for the country. Those who cry and talk much are those who do not lack a thing. Thus, do not get it wrong. Those people cry in protest because some of their ambitions have suffered or came to a halt; their situation at any rate is still good.

Thus, everything depends on the home front. The home front is the backbone of success; it is the backbone of the real jihad. For this home front to be set up and to triumph, the popular patriotic forces must unite and the cohesion among the sectors about which I have talked must be restored. Thanks for the work of the people who are aware, the conscious patriots, including you, the workers, the clean and patriotic cadres; if you find a way of rallying together you will be helping us in rehabilitating the administration and the administrative cadres. [applause]. If this patriotic movement, with youth playing a role in it—because youth constitutes the majority of this nation, we cannot make policies without them, we cannot draw up policies without opening the scope for them—if this front is formed, victory is guaranteed. However, if that front is not formed and the patriots are not mobilized, in any case, I, as head of the government and the government will keep going aimlessly like a blind man's stick, feeling the road here and there, not knowing whether he will find it.

A lot of people say that nothing has changed. The structure has remained the same. However, when we want to effect change where is the reservoir from which we can draw. Replace by whom? There are statistics about available individuals; however, these are only names on paper. [passage omitted]

They will appear—those who become noticeable in life and appear to have the confidence of their colleagues and the citizens, active persons in a municipality or a district whose example people follow and whom the people believe and trust. In these cases we should organise things around them and do not leave in the scene those elements which are currently making moves and have their own propagandists. [passage omitted]

We need to bring to the fore a new generation of young political leaders, because our role is on the way out by virtue of nature, by virtue of biology. Biology does not allow us to go on for long. We will be successful in this task imposed on us by these circumstances, if we put the train back on track, if the country is put back on the course of development and at the same time there is new young leadership at all levels. The thing we must tell these young leaders is that there lies before them wide workshops, wide programs in all fields to build this nation and homeland—in irrigation, agriculture, infra-structure, construction, industry, science, in all fields; these are tasks that stretch over two to three decades of continuous work. The basic capabilities exist and the rest will be the result of work itself. [passage omitted]

All this, however, is dependent on eliminating existing crime and forming patriotic political forces within the context of pluralism. This goes without saying. Patriotic political forces are focusing on the national constants that are the constants on which the country was built and the history of this country [the Algerian nation is an indivisible whole; the building of a modern, just, and powerful state; promoting pluralist democracy; denunciation of crimes against the state, its civil servants, symbols, and institutions] and are focusing also on pursuing a national program and a national project for the completion of the building of this nation and of this state on sound principles.

God willing, this generation, our generation, and the generation coming after us, will leave a place in history for our country. With sacrifices and experience we might in the future spare our country some dangers and risks. If we follow this path, success would be achieved. However, success will in any case come with God's help, but the

Almighty does not act on behalf of the people of the Earth. He helps them if they are on the right path and He guarantees them success. However, if they do not make any move, the Almighty does not act on their behalf. There are those who say: God will sort it out. God indeed helps, but it is up to us all to work. If we follow this path, we will succeed.

There are other issues we could talk about, but I think this would take us too long. Therefore, these words should suffice, and I congratulate you on the success of this meeting, and wish you success in the future. I also sincerely hope that you will close ranks, because you are a force we need and a force that the country needs. I am sorry; I made a mistake—it is not I who need you but the country [applause]. It is up to you to show that the spirit of your predecessors still prevails. Concerning yourselves, your children and ours, the door of struggle is open and the door of victory is also open. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Egypt

Time Bomb Kills 1, Injures 4 in Shubra

NC1806212593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—A time bomb went off in a kiosk used by the company drilling the underground railway in front of the Engineering Faculty in Shubra this evening.

One citizen was killed and four others were injured in the explosion, according to initial reports.

Security and civil defense officials rushed to the scene, while ambulances took the injured to the al-Sahil Hospital.

According to initial forensic examination, the explosive device was similar to those used by terrorists in recent bombings in the Nasr-al-Din underpass on the Pyramids Road, in al-Qulali, and Madinat Nasr. The device contained the highly explosive TNT and a large amount of nails, which scattered like shrapnel across the road, damaging the windows of shops, which were closed for the Friday holiday.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2056 GMT on 18 June adds the following: "An official security source at the Interior Ministry said a Cairo police radio patrol was notified this evening of the presence of an object consisting of five copper fingers and an electrical device in Zaki Street, 'Urabi Square, in Cairo.

["Cairo Security Directorate officials went to the scene and an explosives expert removed the object, which is now being examined by experts at the criminal laboratory."]

Death Toll Rises to 7

NC1906094193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—The number of victims in the explosion that occurred in Shubra, northern Cairo, last night has risen to seven, after three of the injured died of their wounds today. Dr. Muhammad Sharaf, general manager of the al-Sahil Hospital, has stated that 11 people were admitted to the hospital following the explosion. Two of them are in the intensive care unit, two others are in stable condition, and four have been treated and discharged from the hospital, he added.

Police Arrest 65 Muslim Fundamentalists

NC1906120493 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 19 Jun 93

[By David Daure]

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 19 (AFP)—Police on Saturday [19 June] arrested 65 suspects after a bomb packed with nails went off in a crowded slum district of the Egyptian capital and killed five people, sparking protests against Islamic militants.

The blast late Friday, the eighth in Cairo so far this year, targeted the northern district of Shubra. It ripped through a workers' shed used by French engineers on the site of a new subway line.

Police raided several districts of the capital and rounded up 65 Muslim fundamentalists on suspicion of involvement in the bombing, which killed five Egyptians and wounded 19. Two of the dead were children.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the official news agency MENA said the bomb appeared to be of a sort used in previous blasts blamed on Islamic militants.

The bomb, made up of TNT, sprayed nails which were found embedded in nearby walls and also started a fire. Most of the casualties were in a cafe.

As news spread of the attack, residents of Shubra held protests to denounce the escalation of violence that has claimed 14 lives in Cairo alone in less than a month.

The latest attack came just hours after Defence Minister Husayn Tantawi warned the army would be deployed "if necessary" to combat the year-long campaign by Islamic militants to overthrow the government. [passage omitted]

Two Bombs Defused in Shubra

NC2106093193 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP)—Two bombs were defused in the northern Cairo slum district of Shubra, the site of a deadly blast just 48 hours earlier, the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram reported Monday.

It said one of the devices was uncovered Sunday at a construction site for a new subway line and the other in an apartment block near a mosque.

Police have blamed Islamic militants for the nail-packed bomb in Shubra on Friday that killed seven people and wounded 20, also near a subway site run by French engineers.

The militants, in their year-long campaign to overthrow the secular government of President Husni Mubarak, have warned foreign companies not to invest in Egypt and targeted the tourism industry.

In the southern Egyptian resort of Aswan, disposal experts on Sunday defused a time-bomb packed with nails four minutes before it was set to explode in a busy street, police said.

Since March 1992, the militant campaign has claimed 165 lives, with three foreign tourists among the dead, according to an AFP toll.

Security Forces Defuse Explosive Device in Aswan

NC2006183593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Aswan, 20 Jun (MENA)—Aswan's security forces have defused an explosive device which had been placed in front of a store on the city's Nile Corniche.

An Interior Ministry official said that the device was stuffed with gunpowder and nails of various sizes, connected to a timer, and placed inside a briefcase that was subsequently found by a citizen who alerted the security forces.

Security officials, including bomb experts, moved to the site and after examining the briefcase found the bomb inside a plastic bag.

Firefighting vehicles used hoses to soak the device in order to prevent the gunpowder from exploding.

Aswan's security services are making intensive efforts to arrest the culprits who planted the device.

Suspects in Recent Bombings Said Identified by Police

NC1806124393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—In remarks published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, a security official says that all the terrorists involved in the recent bombings which caused many casualties in Cairo and al-Jizah have been identified and their residences pinpointed. The official added that the identification plan was prepared by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, who personally supervised searches of all the apartments, furnished rooms, and other possible locations of the terrorists.

The source asserted that the plan succeeded and led to the arrest of a large number of terrorists suspected of involvement in recent bombings and other incidents. Several members of al-Jihad Organization have also been arrested in the governorates and are being interrogated.

Two Killed, Two Wounded in Shoot-Out in Asyut

NC1906141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Asyut, 19 Jun (MENA)—Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Jabir Makarim, chief of transport police in the Asyut railway station, was slightly wounded in his shoulder during a shoot-out with two terrorists who were being ambushed in the station.

Detective 'Abd-al'Alim Ahmad Sayyid was martyred and detective Salah-al-Din Bakhit was wounded during the shoot out, in which a terrorist was killed, while the other managed to escape after being hit. This was stated by Major General Mahmud 'Antar, assistant to the interior minister and chief of Asyut security. [passage omitted]

Further on Shoot-Out

NC1906211093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1901 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—A security source said that at 1240 today, Sergeant Major Salah-al-Din Bakhit and Sgt. Maj. 'Abd- al-'Alim Ahmad Sayyid, both of the secret service, were patrolling Asyut railway station. The two secret policemen spotted two men, one of them carrying a briefcase, acting suspiciously. When approached by the two secret policemen, the two men drew pistols and fired at the servicemen, who returned the fire. Sayyid was killed on the spot and Bakhit was hit with bullets in his right leg and upper abdomen.

One of the two suspects was also killed immediately. His name was Tharwat al-Sayyid Muhammad. Muhammad is a known terrorist and is wanted by the police in connection with the murder of a British tourist, firing on a tourist bus, and hurling a bomb at a police station.

The second suspect is Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a student in Asyut medical college. He also is a known terrorist and is wanted by the police. 'Abd-al-'Aziz succeeded in escaping from the scene because the security forces had to exercise restraint in their use of firearms so as not to endanger public safety in the crowded railway station. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Army Needed To Combat Militants

NC2006210393 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Taba, Egypt, June 20 (AFP)—A top interior ministry official on Sunday [20 June] denied that the army was ready to join the battle against Egypt's Islamic militants.

"The police still control the situation," General Baha-al-Din Ibrahim, an assistant to Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, told foreign journalists at this Red Sea resort.

Ibrahim said there were no "terrorist" groups able to seize power in any part of Egypt, and therefore the authorities did not need to resort to the army, but he added that the police asked the army to help train its forces.

On Friday, the defense minister, General Husayn Tantawi, warned the army would be deployed "if necessary" to combat Moslem militants, according to remarks appearing in pro-government newspapers.

Ibrahim said police needed the help of the people more than that of the army to catch militant leaders.

There were no more than 3,000 armed militants, the ministry official said, adding that they were well organized and were afraid of nothing.

While conceding it was difficult to obtain evidence of a government financing militant operations, he charged that fundamentalists recently admitted during interrogation that they had received money from Iran.

Ibrahim said Islamic militants have committed 64 attacks—including 17 against tourists—since the beginning of a wave of violence in March 1992.

These attacks have killed 165 people, including 65 militants, 39 policemen, 29 Coptic Christians, and 29 bystanders hit by stray bullets or explosions, and three foreign tourists, according to an AFP toll.

Hanged Spy Reportedly Worked for Israel

NC1806175693 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 4

[Excerpts] AL-AKHBAR has learned that the spy Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Shahid, who was hanged in the appeals prison yesterday, worked for Israel. The spy was a lawyer and had a master's degree in law. He went to Tunisia, where he taught at an administration institute. He went to Austria in 1990 to obtain a doctorate.

During his stay in Austria, he met some people and began trading in enriched uranium. He came to Egypt, where he offered to sell uranium to Egyptian officials. They turned him down. He returned to Austria, where he was picked up by Israeli intelligence. He began to cooperate with them and tried to recruit others. He handed Israel a military technology secret.

Then, some of those he tried to recruit discovered his treason and his cheap method of trying to obtain information. They informed the Egyptian security authorities, which asked them to pretend they were cooperating with him. He was placed under surveillance. The authorities supplied false information and asked these people to pass it to him.

The defendant came to Egypt, where he was arrested. Invisible ink and forged papers were found on him. A worker helped him to forge these papers. The spy was interrogated by a supreme state security prosecutor before being referred to a military prosecutor to whom he made a detailed confession. A supreme military court sentenced him to death by hanging on 3 May 1992. The sentence was approved on 7 December 1992. The spy appealed, but was turned down on 21 April 1993 and on 8 May 1993, an order was issued to execute him. [passage omitted] The hanging was carried out on 13 June, ending a story of espionage and treason.

Musa Comments on Reported Sudanese Request on Hala'ib

NC1806193893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Commenting on a statement by OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim that Sudan has requested placing the Hala'ib issue on the agenda of the OAU Ministerial Council meetings, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Egypt was not informed of this.

Egypt does not object to a member state proposing what it wants, he said. When we are informed of this Sudanese request, he added, we will have much to say; we will act according to the situation.

Musa said the Sudanese foreign minister will attend the meetings of the ministerial council.

The OAU secretary general said Sudan asked the OAU secretariat to place Hala'ib on the agendas of the ministerial council and the African summit. He said member states would study the Sudanese request to decide whether to accept it.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Comments on Hala'ib

NC2006193793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1603 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih arrived in Cairo today. He will attend the OAU ministerial meeting, which will begin on 21 June.

On his arrival he announced that the purpose of his visit is to attend the OAU foreign ministers meeting. Asked if Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council, will attend the OAU summit, Abu-Salih said he had come to attend the ministerial meeting but with regard to the summit, the chairmanship of the Sudanese state will participate in it. He added: "There is time to decide this later."

The Sudanese minister stated that his country has asked the OAU to put the Hala'ib issue on the agenda, noting that he had hoped this issue would be settled between the two countries without having to resort to the OAU. Asked if there is still time to resolve this dispute prior to the OAU summit, he answered: "One hour is enough to settle the conflict." [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes Clinton, Other World Leaders

NC1806140393 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 52

[Hamid Sulayman column: "Without Masks"]

[Excerpt] It is a calamity that the world now lives in the age of midgets. After it was ruled by Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill, de Gaulle, and Mao Zedong, it is now ruled by a boy of little experience, "Bill Clinton." Revolving in his orbit are midgets such as Yeltsin, John Major, and Mitterrand, who joined the United States in an imperialist war in the Gulf despite his respectable socialist history!

The major powers that allied themselves in the 1940's to eliminate the fascist and racist powers represented by Mussolini and Hitler are now allied in the 1990's to destroy the Iraqi people in Asia and discipline the Somali people in Africa to safeguard oil interests in the former and strategic interests in the latter.

Regrettably, the foxes of the 1990's are donning monks' robes. They raise the slogans of human rights, but their false masks fall in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Muslim rights are being violated and Muslim women are being raped in Bosnia. This does not concern them. Their vacillation is obvious. Because waging a war in the mountains is a risky business, they hesitate and vacillate. Let human rights go to hell. They fly from afar to bomb Baghdad and Mogadishu to preserve their precious blood. Fighting in planes is safe, and victory is guaranteed.

But it is a cheap victory, ignoring the massacre of thousands of men, the rape of thousands of women, and the displacement of millions of children, old men, and handicapped people. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Speaks About Armament Plans

NC1806152593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Ismailia, 18 Jun (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has said that the Armed Forces are developing by the day in terms of armament, whether through domestic means or by acquiring new weapons.

Tantawi made a statement to journalists today while attending the final phase of the tactical exercise Basil 6, in which various units of the 2d Field Army took part. He noted that some countries have great financial resources and can purchase various weapons available on international markets but lack human resources and competence to enable them to absorb the weapons, while other countries are in the reverse situation.

He pointed out that Egypt is a balanced state with human resources and proficiency through which it can absorb advanced weapons. At the same time, its economic situation allows it to acquire various modern armament systems.

He said Egypt's policy is to find an economic balance between spending on armament and acquiring weapons capable of executing the desired tasks. He added: We aim to acquire adequate armament systems at the lowest possible cost and without burdening the state's budget. We have armament experts who enable us to acquire weapons that are absolutely in line with our goals.

He went on to say that there are five-year plans to develop armaments in various areas and Armed Forces branches by producing them locally or importing them from abroad.

He affirmed that a number of Apache aircraft, the world's most modern helicopters for destroying tanks, will arrive in Egypt shortly and make an upturn in our Armed Forces. He added: We agreed with the U.S. side to avoid some of the points observed during that aircraft's operation during the Gulf war, and the U.S. side understands this issue.

He said that the project to manufacture the M1A1 tank is proceeding according to plan and that the first 50 tanks of this type have been manufactured and allocated to the Egyptian Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

He affirmed that Egypt will soon acquire minesweepers as part of its efforts to modernize Egyptian Navy. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government Warns OAU Against Contact With Rebels

EA2006180093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Sudan has warned the OAU General Secretariat against letting the rebel movement contact the OAU during the African summit scheduled for the last week of June.

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, the official government spokesman at the peace negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria, has said that a delegation from the main rebel faction [Garang faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is currently visiting Cairo under the pretext of attending a conference of the so-called alliance. His excellency confirmed Sudan's categorical rejection of any contact between the OAU and the rebel movement. He said that the Egyptian Government must bear its responsibility in this regard. He pointed out that there was a pending problem between Sudan and Egypt, namely Egypt's occupation of Sudanese territory, which, he said, is a violation of the OAU charter.

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj said that any contact between the OAU and the rebel movement would reduce the organization's respectability and effectiveness. He pointed out that Egypt's hosting the rebel movement's delegation and Sudanese opposition constituted a violation of its charter.

Two SPLA Groups Again Agree on Cease-Fire

AB2006152593 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Nairobi, June 20 (AFP)—For the second time in four weeks, the two main factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have agreed to stop fighting and facilitate relief work in southern Sudan, the movement's officials here said Sunday.

John Garang's mainstream SPLA and Riak Machar's breakaway SPLA-United met in Nairobi on Saturday under the chairmanship of the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Donald Petterson.

They agreed on a truce and to appoint representatives to review humanitarian needs in the conflict areas of Ayod, Kongor, Waat and Yuai.

The two sides agreed on a cease-fire on May 27 to allow urgent delivery of relief aid but they have since accused each other of violating the agreement. [passage omitted]

Minister Dismisses Egyptian Allegations

PM1806115693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p4

[Interview with Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, by Jamil Hatmal in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hatmal] Recent reports indicate that a friendly state, namely Yemen, has asked Sudan to hand over a person who has taken refuge in Sudan. His name is Usamah Bin-Ladin. He is a leader of the "Afghans" [Yemenis who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin]. What is your position on this request?

[Salah-al-Din] Frankly, I have not officially heard of it. I read about it in the press, and I have no knowledge of an official Yemeni request. Actually I am suspicious about this report, as it was published by a newspaper whose position toward us is known. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] There are other issues similar to the Usamah Bin-Ladin issue, as it is being said that Sudan has become a base for a number of fundamentalist leaders or others.

[Salah-al-Din] Sudan is not a base. If you look fairly at these allegations, you will find that most leaders of the Islamic movements are in Europe and the United States, not in Sudan. But Sudan has since 1990 been adopting a position of openness to the Arab world. The Sudanese regime's Islamic orientation had not crystallized back then. We are unionists and open the door to Arab brothers without a visa. But that does not prevent us from denying unwanted people entry to Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] Some quarters say there is a certain relationship between Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman [Egyptian fundamentalist leader] and Sudan, or specifically [National Islamic Front leader] Shaykh [Hasan] al-Turabi.

[Salah-al-Din] That is one of the official Egyptian apparatus' slanders, and there are many of them. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman did not come to Sudan at Sudan's invitation. The Egyptian intelligence service took him to the airport and told him: You cannot go and perform 'umrah [minor pilgrimage], as he had wanted. But you can go to Baghdad or Sudan. As the man knew no one in Baghdad, he said: We will go to Sudan. He went to Sudan and stayed there for nearly two weeks. Officials did not even know he was there. When President 'Umar al-Bashir was told that world radio stations were talking about someone called 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, he asked who 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was. 'Abd-al-Rahman left Sudan after that, heading for the United States. He is now in the United States. But Egypt hosts the armed rebel movement of southern Sudan. It recognizes John Garang's rebel movement, which has an office in Cairo and is provided with facilities, an office, and recognition by the so-called Sudanese Democratic National Grouping, which is adopting a military policy to change the authorities in Sudan through the military group "Ana al-Sudan" and other disbanded parties operating openly against Sudan. Whereas Sudan has received no Egyptian oppositionists. But, as I said, Sudan is open to everyone.

[Hatmal] Does that mean that Sudan refuses to receive Egyptian oppositionists?

[Salah-al-Din] Sudan's fixed policy is not to host any opposition—political or military—active against any Arab state. And of course, it has not hosted any Egyptian opposition.

[Hatmal] What about the Egyptian authorities' saying that Sudan is sponsoring current religious tendencies in Egypt?

[Salah-al-Din] The Egyptian authorities did not say only that. I refer you to President Husni Mubarak's statements on Sudan, which are all slanders which have been proved to be untrue. President Husni Mubarak spoke to Egyptian officials about Iraqi missiles in Port Sudan. He spoke about Iranian missiles in Port Sudan. He spoke about Iranian troops totalling 18,000 in southern Sudan. They also spoke about training camps. All these things have been proved to the world to be untrue.

[Hatmal] So what is the reason for the international consensus on attributing all these things to Sudan and Iran?

[Salah-al-Din] It is not an international consensus. It is primarily an Egyptian scheme.

[Hatmal] But several Western media circles are responding to it.

[Salah-al-Din] That has not been published in reports; in the media, yes. The media are entitled to adopt such a position. We know who controls the media at present. Official U.S. State Department reports have not adopted that position. The official report did not adopt it.

I reiterate that the Egyptian Government wants to change pan-Arab security theory so that Iran—not Israel—is the new enemy of the Arab nation, so that the peace and normalization process is implemented and Israel is readily accepted into the Arab environment. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] Are there any political prisoners?

[Salah-al-Din] There are no political prisoners. If you read recent newspapers, you would have found an article by [former Prime Minister] al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, insulting the government. He is free and talks to diplomats and journalists. There are many like him. Sometimes there are summonses, but they are merely summonses. These are essential matters, because there is a plot against Sudan. We know that the Egyptian Government has recruited Sudanese individuals. There will be public trials for them, and the press can watch and follow up these trials of the terrorist group recruited by the Egyptian intelligence service to carry out bombings in Sudan.

[Hatmal] Do you expect terrorist operations to be carried out inside Sudan?

[Salah-al-Din] Of course. Because it displeases the Egyptian Government very much to see Sudan and the Sudanese people peaceful while its streets are swept by violence. This is why it had to recruit these elements, who made confessions to the entire world on Sudanese television about the role of the Egyptian intelligence service and the mission assigned to them, which includes bombings and assassinations. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] A final point: You named earlier a number of [Sudanese] opposition organizations inside or outside Egypt. Are you as a regime willing to hold a dialogue with them?

[Salah-al-Din] Those organizations are agent organizations and have no real influence inside Sudan. When we now talk about an Ummah Party leading the country from abroad, where is the Ummah Party, and on what does it rely? On the al-Ansar group. We went to the al-Ansar group in their stronghold in Jazirat Aba and the White Nile, and they accorded us a great reception. And their leaders now hold high-level and minor posts in government.

[Hatmal] And the Sudanese Communist Party?

[Salah-al-Din] The leader of the Sudanese Communist Party is actually a very respectable man in Sudan. We respect him a lot, because he is not an agent. That is a fact. He exists and is free, and we wish him [God's] guidance. [passage omitted]

Egypt Said Escalating Sudanese 'Instability' Campaign

EA2006215593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Commentary by Hasab al-Rasul]

[Excerpts] In a press statement published by AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad revealed the arrival of a delegation from Garang's faction, including three from the delegation which attended the Abuja talks, to attend the OAU summit under the cover of attending a conference of the alliance. Available information indicates that the Egyptian regime was behind the invitation [words indistinct] in addition to the fact that the (?Egyptian) regime is escalating its campaign about instability in Sudan with the intention of presenting the peace question in Sudan to the OAU countries.

It is also making attempts to have the question included in the agenda of the summit, taking advantage of the problem and utilizing the machinery of the proposed interference to settle African conflicts. The Egyptian regime wants to strengthen the grouping which is hostile to the National Salvation Revolution by bringing in the rebel movement as (?an interested) party. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian regime is attempting to convert the African summit into a theater for political disputes. What more do we expect of it when it is involved in occupying a part of Sudanese territory.

Since the Egyptian regime is aware that the occupation of Hala'ib will be presented as part of the agenda, it thinks that Sudan must be provided with another problem in a naive attempt to suggest to the African leaders that the present government in Sudan is overburdened with problems.

This narrow view of the Egyptian regime about events in Sudan deserves sympathy and compassion because the challenges imposed on Sudan and the difficulties put in its way are recognized by Sudan and it is working hard to eliminate them. The country is sure that the Egyptian regime is determined to stir up challenges to Sudan and Sudan's problems.

Today, the Egyptian regime is playing the same role which it played during the second Abuja talks again. The Egyptian ambassador was the only Arab ambassador who worked on the side of the western ambassadors to make the talks fail. It is sufficient to say that the Kenyan papers said that the same thing happened in Nairobi and added that Egypt did not want peace for Sudan and was sending weapons to the rebel movement.

Finally, we say that the Egyptian regime is playing a limited role in the interest of the world order. One of its roles is to drown regional organization in a sea of complicated problems.

Kuwait

Iraqi National Sentenced to Death for 'Collaboration'

LD1906135393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1258 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—At a hearing today the State Security Court sentenced to death Walid Jasim Mahdi al-Majid, an Iraqi national accused of active collaboration with the Iraqi forces, spying on Kuwaiti citizens for the forces of occupation, and possessing arms and ammunition without a permit. At the same hearing the court cleared Ahmad M.H., a Kuwaiti national, of the charges leveled against him, including assisting the aforementioned person in spying on the house of a Kuwaiti officer. [passage omitted]

Meeting With Yemeni Foreign Minister Postponed

PM1806132493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Basindwah: Meeting Postponed, Not Canceled; Sabah al-Ahmad: We Are in No Rush Over Normalization"]

[Text] Vienna, Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Rabat yesterday from Vienna, which he left without meeting with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah as had been expected.

On his arrival, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad praised the efforts being made by King Hassan II of Morocco "to unite the Arab and Islamic nation and restore Arab accord to its previous status." He pointed out that "the present situation among the Arab states is not an easy situation."

Before leaving Vienna for Rabat, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad renewed his country's position on not rushing the restoration of relations with the states known in Kuwait as the "hostile" states [which supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait]. He called for understanding of the scale of the tragedy that befell Kuwait and the deep wounds inflicted on its people. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in statements to KUNA that some of these states have begun to make contacts with Kuwait to restore bridges of trust with it, "but Kuwait is in no rush over that step."

He denied making any contacts with the Yemeni foreign minister on the sidelines of the World Conference on Human Rights being held in the Austrian capital. He said that he welcomed Basindwah's statements, in which he said that Yemen has never supported Iraq against Kuwait, "because they were friendly statements, that is all."

For his part, Basindwah said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he "is willing to meet with anyone who wishes to meet with him." But he "is not willing to express more than goodwill and the sincere desire to improve relations and eliminate the blemishes."

Basindwah stressed that the meeting had been postponed, not canceled, and that it will be held at the two parties' wish. He pointed out that Yemen "made a move to mend the rift out of its realization of the Arabs' pressing need for cohesion under the new world order." He said that "if there is internal Kuwaiti opposition to this meeting, it is an internal affair, and Yemen cannot interfere in the internal affairs of others."

Basindwah revealed that Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani and United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah will visit Sanaa in the first [as published] half of this month. He said that "reconciliation between Yemen and its neighbors should be a step toward a more comprehensive Arab reconciliation."

Basindwah has over the past few days met with a number of Arab foreign ministers, including the Saudi, Qatari, and UAE foreign ministers. He had hoped to meet with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad today, but the latter left suddenly for Morocco. Meanwhile, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has urged the Gulf states to open a new page in their relations with Yemen. He said in an interview published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH yesterday that his country's opposition to the Western intervention does not impair Kuwait's freedom to choose its allies. He said, "we in Yemen wanted the problem to be solved in an Arab context... but Kuwait is entitled to seek help even from the devil to defend itself."

He also said that "Yemen had nothing to do with the invasion... we advised them (the Iraqis) to withdraw, but they told us that any discussion of the withdrawal idea is a blasphemy."

Editorial Lauds UN's Peace Efforts in Somalia

LD1906123093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti paper hailed today the United Nation's efforts to establish peace in Somalia expressing its hope that similar efforts will be used against other war criminals in the world.

In its editorial entitled "Aidid Now and Saddam Husayn Tomorrow" AL-SIYASAH said: "Had the teeth of the UN been shown in the past to ensure the implementation of international resolutions we would not have seen the atrocities of civil wars nor the oppression of the dictator rulers." AL-SIYASAH added: "The UN teeth which were shown in Somalia to fight one of the war criminals and to chase him in Somalia, namely Mohamed Farah Aidid, are called upon to head to other places such as

Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Iraq of Saddam Husayn to put an end to the sins which are hampering the march of humanity toward progress and stability and to firmly establish the foundations of world peace."

The paper called upon the international force to capture Aidid, stating that "A man like Aidid should not be left to tamper with the security of Somalia or to continue to serve his own leadership and attack the international force therein. He must be arrested and face trial in the name of the international will and face punishment for what he did to his country and people."

The international force to bring peace to Somalia launched an attack last week on the positions of Somali General Mohamed Farah Aidid in the capital Mogadishu, in an attempt to end the fighting that has been raging there for several months.

It is to be recalled that the international force of the United Nations assumed last May the responsibility for establishing peace in Somalia and the protection of humanitarian aid convoys from the United States, which was commanding the international force to maintain peace therein.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

LD1906195993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Kuwait today on a three-day visit. He was received on arrival by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry, and by a number of high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, as well as by Mohamed Hachana, Tunisian charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

The Tunisian foreign minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Kuwait and said that this visit is aimed at preserving the continuity of dialogue between the two countries and at examining the situation in the Gulf and in Arab Maghreb areas.

[Begin Ben Yahya recording] In response to the kind invitation from my brother and friend, Shaykh Sabah, to visit Kuwait, it is a great honor for me to touch the beloved land of free, liberated, and secure Kuwait today in order to continue the dialogue which started many years ago because relations between Kuwait and Tunisia are old and deep-rooted. [end recording]

Later on, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister held talks at the ministry with the Tunisian foreign minister. The talks focused on bilateral relations and ways of consolidating them in all fields.

Received by Amir

LD2006122393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpts] His highness the amir of our country at 1000 this morning received His Excellency Habib Ben Yahya, foreign minister of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia, who delivered to his highness a message from His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia. [passage omitted]

At 1030 this morning, his highness the amir received His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to our country. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Increase Oil Output Over Next Quarter

LD2006143493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait 20 Jun 93 (KUNA)—Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said here today that over the next three months Kuwait will gradually increase its oil production, currently 1.6 million barrels per day, to 1.9 million barrels per day in July, 2 million barrels per day in August, and 2.16 million barrels per day in September.

At a news conference on Kuwait oil production levels over the next quarter, he said that "at the 93d OPEC meeting, Kuwait cannot accept its proposed production quota for the next three months, which is 1.76 million barrels per day because it contradicts the letter and spirit of OPEC's promise to Kuwait, which was agreed upon at the February [OPEC] meeting."

Mr. al-Baghli said that although Kuwait is not a party to this agreement, "we will be acting responsibly with regard to our production policies over the next quarter out of our belief in Kuwait's big role within OPEC." He said pointedly that out of a sense of responsibility and in view of a detailed and comprehensive review by experts of the international oil market, Kuwait has decided not to increase its output immediately to 2.16 million barrels per day, even though it has the capacity to do so."

Mr. al-Baghli pointed out that the Ministry of Petroleum will be implementing the increases for July, August, and September without putting any pressure on the international oil market "out of our belief that world demand during the third quarter will absorb the increase." He predicted that prices will be firmer during that quarter if the other OPEC member states stick to their production quotas; only strict adherence to quotas will bring about the sought after improvement in oil prices, he added.

Mr. al-Baghli concluded by asserting that prices are the joint responsibility of all OPEC members and that it is therefore their joint responsibility to defend them.

Responsible Oil Policy Reaffirmed

LD2006160593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 20 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwait today reaffirmed its commitment to a responsible oil production policy that will maintain oil prices. During a meeting of the Council of Ministers it expressed hope that all OPEC members will be committed to their joint responsibility in accordance with the recent agreement, something that will lead to the realization of the interest of all parties and consolidate stability in the world oil market. This came following a review by the Council of Ministers of a report submitted by Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli regarding the production capacity and the results of a comprehensive study carried out by specialists on the situation in the international oil market. When reviewing the statement issued recently by the UN Security Council, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed that the continuation of the Iraqi regime's excesses and defiance to the Security Council resolution reflect the aggressive nature of this regime. The Council of Ministers stressed the necessity of concentrating the efforts of the international community to compel this regime to implement the UN resolutions in order to strengthen peace and stability in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Minister of State for the Affairs of the Council of Ministers 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil said that the message sent by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, which was conveyed by the Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, expressed Tunisia's desire to consolidate relations with Kuwait. It also expressed President Ben Ali's appreciation for the positive role of Kuwait in laying down new foundation for Arab relations based on respecting international legitimacy, the sovereignty of other states, and good neighborliness. Al-Dakhil added that the Tunisian president has reaffirmed Tunisia's desire to end the negative effects of the Iraqi aggression and occupation of Kuwait and to establish a new ground for relations among the states of the region based on international legitimacy, and commitment to the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil announced also that the council, on reviewing local affairs, has approved the draft decree regarding the establishment of a consultative bureau for his highness the heir apparent which will have among its members people of experience and views. The plan has been submitted to the Emiri Office.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Message from Morocco's Hassan

LD2006155993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received a message from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, at an audience with him at his office at al-Salam Palace. [passage omitted]

King Fahd, Kuwaiti Amir Discuss Gulf Situation

LD1906165793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Jeddah 19 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of fraternal Kuwait. During the telephone conversation they examined the latest developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas as well as other topics of mutual interest to both countries.

Yemen

UNHCR Says Somali 'Boat People' not Aidid Followers

AB2006100593 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 20 (AFP)—Some 250 Somali "boat people" have recently arrived in Yemen seeking refuge and none of them are followers of fugitive warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid, a U.N. official said Sunday [20 June]. Carlos Zaccagnini told AFP the Somalis arrived in Aden aboard small boats after a five-day trip.

Reports that some of them are partisans of General Aidid are totally unfounded, Zaccagnini, the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

Tawfik Wannas, another UNHCR official, told AFP that 100 of the Somalis were temporarily settled in refugee camps in a Aden suburb. The UNHCR "will examine ways of assisting the refugees," he said. [passage omitted]

Conditional Consideration of UN Monitoring Reported

JN1906133993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Iraq has declared its readiness to embark on an intensive effort with the Special Committee to study the subsequent stage, which includes monitoring, if the UN Security Council shows a readiness to lift the unjust economic siege imposed on Iraq. Iraq declared that Resolution 715 is organically linked with the issue of the UN Security Council seriously considering lifting the economic blockade, which has been imposed for three years.

This came in a press release issued by the mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations, in response to the allegations that were made by Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Committee, and which were adopted by the UN Security Council in the statement issued by the Security Council president yesterday, Friday [18 June].

An INA correspondent in New York said that in its statement the Iraqi Mission explained that the Special Committee has supervised the implementation of all vital parts of Part C of Resolution 687. However, it wants to start implementation of Resolution 715 without committing itself to informing the UN Security Council that Iraq's compliance with Part C of Resolution 687 requires the UN Security Council to begin serious consideration of the implementation of Paragraph 22 of that resolution. This paragraph concerns the lifting of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

It made clear that this is the main issue, and that the report submitted by the head of the Special Committee to the UN Security Council last week is absolutely groundless, because Iraq accepted and implemented Resolution 687. However, Article 22 of the resolution itself states the following:

The Security Council—after endorsing the program outlined by Paragraph 19 and satisfying itself that Iraq has completed all the measures specified by Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13—decides that the resolutions banning the import of basic commodities and goods originating in Iraq and financial transactions specified in Resolution 661 will no longer be valid.

Iraq's mission emphasized that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is as binding as the other parts of the resolution and that any claim that Iraq is violating or intends to violate that resolution is baseless. Iraq, it added, reaffirms its commitment to that resolution.

The Iraqi Mission added that Iraq is subjected to political pressure to make it implement all Security Council resolutions without any commitment by the Security Council to lift the economic blockade. Iraq is willing to meet other commitments, if there are any left, but the Security Council should also show a willingness to meet its commitments. No additional political conditions should be imposed on Iraq in this connection.

The Mission noted that those who claim that Iraq wants to renegotiate the Security Council resolutions are not telling the truth, because Iraq's request was very clear; namely, to conduct a professional, legal and technical review of how much of Resolution 687 has been met.

This clarification, the Mission said, was made in a letter from the foreign minister to the Security Council on 30 May, when he said: "This request does not mean renegotiation. It means an objective review so that the Council will seriously consider lifting the economic blockade, which has been in place for three years."

The Iraqi Mission asserted that the substance of Resolution 715 is inseparably linked with this issue. If the Council demonstrates a willingness to consider lifting the economic blockade, then Iraq will be willing to initiate intensive contacts with the Special Committee to examine the next stage on monitoring.

The Iraqi Mission added: It is unfair to ask Iraq to do everything in return for nothing. The Mission said that in his report to the Security Council, Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Committee, presented Iraq's position in a distorted, inaccurate, and selective fashion that does not give a comprehensive, true picture of Iraq's attitude.

Saddam Receives Cables on Advent of New Islamic Year

'Arafat Sends Greetings

JN2106092693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the advent of the new Islamic year.

The cable reads: On the occasion of our Islamic nation's celebration of the new Islamic year, I am pleased to extend to Your Excellency and to your esteemed government and fraternal people, in my name and on behalf of the brother members of the PLO Executive Committee and our Palestinian people, our heartfelt congratulations and sincere brotherly wishes.

This blessed occasion inspires us with many noble meanings and lessons which strengthen our faith and renew our hope and confidence to work together, relying on God, to ensure our nation will ride out its ordeals and crises by rising above suffering, wounds, and differences to unite its positions, close ranks, and restore solidarity and joint action among its states. This way we will serve the higher noble objectives for which the nation is struggling and which will enhance its status in the world.

We beseech God almighty to grant you continued good health and happiness and your fraternal people more progress and prosperity. We wish the peoples of our Islamic nation more progress and affluence. We hope by the next anniversary, our Palestinian people will have achieved what they are struggling for, by ending Israeli occupation of their land and holy places, restoring and exercising their inalienable national rights, and establishing their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

I once again extend to Your Excellency my warm heartfelt congratulations, wishing you success in leading your people toward achieving further progress and prosperity.

God's peace and blessings be upon you. Together until victory to liberated Jerusalem, with God's help.

Oman's Sultan Conveys Wishes

JN2106085893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the advent of the new Islamic year.

The cable says:

As a new Islamic year begins, we seize this opportunity to extend to you our best congratulations and wishes of continued good health and happiness. We pray to God almighty that this year will be one of prosperity and affluence for you and your fraternal people. We also ask God almighty to grant the Arab and Islamic nation continued success and happiness. Many happy returns.

Final Part of Saddam's Meeting With Youth Aired

JN1506165993

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 14 June links up with Baghdad Television, "Voice of the Youth From Dar al-Salam" and other Republic of Iraq radios to carry a recording of the "second and final part" of a meeting of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn with the president and members of the Executive Bureau of the General Union of Iraqi Youth.

A speech by the president of the Iraqi Youth Union begins the recording. The speaker praises Saddam for touching on the problems facing youth and ways to resolve them. The speaker says: "Your Excellency taught us—taught all the Iraqis—the meaning of dignity, glory, pride, and freedom of the homeland." After reviewing Saddam's achievements, the speaker says Iraqi youth are fully aware of the "importance of the current stage" and the "challenges" in this stage. He says: "Comrade Hasan [not further identified] was in Russia 15 days ago and saw the Russians' reaction there in Russia, which was known for leading the confrontation against imperialist American soldiers. Great leader Saddam Husayn has become a symbol for all good people in the world; and the Mother of Battles now represents a state and a message, as Your Excellency described it, to the Arab and world conscience."

The union president then speaks about the successful results of the nonaligned students and youth conference held in Baghdad. He says that despite schemes by some organizations, including "some Arab parties", a new organization was established and headquartered in Baghdad.

During the speaker's review of the activities of the Iraqi Youth Union members, who volunteered to carry out national and fedayeen tasks without waiting for approval from their superior, Saddam interrupts to say: "This is excellent. The old way of holding meetings and discussions and seeking the opinion of a command member would cool the situation, undermine the initiative of youth, and prevent them from demonstrating this new spirit. These measures are excellent. It is a sensitive thing to train these young volunteers and fedayeen and to interact with them. This is excellent."

The speaker then reviews the voluntary social activities of the Iraqi Youth Union. He adds that the Youth Union is now seeking to find individuals who are older than the union members within areas in which the social groups operate in order to guide these groups. Saddam interrupts here by saying: "This should take place in the form of dialogue, not in accordance with administrative procedures, so that the spirit of youth will maintain its momentum. Such individuals should hold dialogue with youth about any idea they present and which these persons believe merits dialogue. The dialogue will then be between two generations, so a balance will be created. We do not seek to curb the momentum of an idea, but to achieve a balance whenever there is a need for this."

The union president then says the Iraqi Youth Union formed 12 central leagues and 132 secondary leagues to cover the various activities of youth. He adds that "five persons from the League of Young Broadcasters are now being trained in the Voice of Youth at the instructions of Comrade 'Udayy [son of Saddam Husayn]." The speaker continues to speak about the activities of the League of Young Journalists and their meetings with people who might have some remarks on various issues. Saddam interrupts here by saying: "[Words indistinct] of popular control. They might find a problem in a certain area and honestly and accurately describe this problem to the body that can really tackle it." The speaker then continues to explain the relationship between the activities and the structure of these leagues, adding that the bureaus formed by the Iraqi Youth Union found jobs for 17,206 young people in various sectors of government and non-governmental companies. Saddam comments on this by saying: "That is much better than shouldering the burden of moving from one department to another. In this case, the youth will find jobs in their governorates. May God bless you."

The speaker then speaks about the effects of the siege on Iraq, adding that the union does not have enough musical instruments. He says: "We began our own workshop to make musical instruments, but the Ministry of Culture and Information has not helped us." He adds that the workshop produced 740 musical instruments. He continues to speak about the effects of the siege on artistic and sport sectors and the way to confront this siege through production.

The speaker says that the union's experience in terms of some administrative and financial affairs is not large and that there are some weakness. Saddam says: "This is not considered a shortcoming. The direction, choice, or circumstances might be wrong. Shortcoming means to make something wrong while knowing what is right and what is wrong."

The union president says the union is facing three challenges: The cadre; requirements, including the union offices; and the method of work. Saddam says: "With the passage of time and in light of the rule of expansion—expanding the basis—you will create leading experienced elements. We will have leaders from the young people in all sectors. This is the mission of the organization—that is, to mobilize forces at a certain time or continuously; enlighten the youth so the direction will always be clear; and, at the same time, to create leading elements. Through this large-scale horizontal expansion, you will largely contribute to forming the leading cadre in all sectors of life, in addition to many other things. As of this meeting, the requirements will not be considered an (?obstacle). I do not have to elaborate on this. We do not have an asset higher than youth, except those who are more faithful. Therefore, God willing, we will give you the support that will help you play your role toward your brothers."

The union president then explains the efforts exerted by the union to rebuild the offices and the headquarters. After praising their efforts in this respect, Saddam says: "You are moving in the right direction. However, I want to reiterate that you should not make all requirements available for youth so they will have the opportunity for creativeness and taking initiatives. Any person who has access to everything will not have an opportunity to create things. This applies to all people. You should always place a rule from which the youth would proceed, but you should also give them an opportunity to create things. Without asking you, we understand that your are asking for this support in accordance with the rule we mentioned. You are asking for the support which will lay down a sound rule for creativeness and taking initiatives through the efforts of youth."

The union president continues to explain the union efforts to rebuild its offices and headquarters and the union activities in various areas. At this point, the call for prayer interrupts the recording for approximately three minutes.

The union president then speaks about a housing project for newly-wed couples and an on-the-job training project. He then reviews several festivals and celebrations held by the Youth Union throughout Iraq. Saddam then urges the Youth Union, during the summer season, to go directly to farmers to buy their agricultural products and to sell these products to shops so they will be sold at lower prices. The union president then reviews some of the proposals the union presented to some officials to reward citizens and families and to open a bank for youth. Commenting on a remark made by the union president that a religious debate is taking place within the union, Saddam Husayn says: "If you go into minor details you will lose. Leave the details to others. We are dutybound to urge youth to be good believers; we are dutybound to make Muslim youth read the Holy Koran and non-Muslim youth the books they inherited from their families. We are dutybound to urge Muslim youths to follow the manners defined by Islam and to urge non-Muslims, the Christian youth, to abide by the Ten Commandments. This is the framework, but if we go into the details the source of strength will become a source of weakness and problems in our social life. In our society, there is more than one religion and more than one interpretation in one religion; that is, more than one religious school. So, let us stick to the basics. We want young people to enjoy good manners and to be strong believers. The other matters will be dealt with within their fields—the Culture Ministry deals with its own affairs, the Awqaf Ministry deals with its own affairs, and the mosque preacher deals with his own affairs. We, however, should act like the party. The party does not go into the details; it does not turn to the details of such issues. The party concentrates on the basics and makes a sound historical linkage between the Arab identity and faith which crystallizes the sound characteristiocs of a personality. This is it."

The president of the Youth Union then says his union seeks help from the government and officials to achieve its goals. Saddam interrupts here by saying: "I believe that the government organs are listening to me now. The policy of the government is to give assistance to youth. Under the circumstances of the siege, an official is considered successful not only in his sound management, but also in his support for youth. Any official will be considered successful if he helps youth in addition to his sound management. Nothing in the country will be of value if youth in the country are not balanced, believers, patient, capable of making sacrifices, and enlightened." Saddam then says all party and government institutions should assist youths to create a balance in society, adding that any imbalance in the ranks of youth means imbalance and that youth should be supported by all means.

The speaker then tells Saddam that his support is the greatest medal of honor and renews absolute loyalty to Saddam and the homeland. Saddam then asks the president of the Youth Union: "Have you estimated your needs?" The speaker said: "No, sir." Saddam then tells the speaker: "We will allocate an amount of money and you spend in light of this amount. Let us know if you need anything."

The recording ends at 1828 GMT.

Saddam Receives Message, Gift From Sudan's al-Bashir

JN1906171593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1627 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS] in Sudan. The message deals with the existing firm relations between the two fraternal countries and prospects for their progress.

The message was delivered to President Saddam Husayn by Staff Brigadier General Salah Karrar, member of the RCCNS and minister of mining and energy in Sudan, when his excellency the president received him today.

President Saddam Husayn also received a gift from his brother the Sudanese president representing Sudanese handicrafts as an expression of love and brotherhood.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti.

Al-Zubaydi Meets Energy Minister

JN1706134293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has received Salah al-Din-Karrar, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and minister of energy and mining. The audience was attended by Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti.

The prime minister praised the principled pan-Arab position of the Sudanese Government and people, as well as their solidarity with the Iraqi people during their confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. He added that this position is appreciated by the Iraqi leadership, especially President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Staff Brigadier General Salah-al-Din Karrar, Sudanese minister of energy and mining, stressed Sudan's constant solidarity with Iraq against the imperialist-Zionist aggression. He noted that Sudan is also being subjected to aggression and continuous pressures by imperialism and Zionism to force it to abandon its pan-Arab role and its sovereignty and its endeavors to develop its national economy.

The meeting was also attended by the chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

INA Profiles Domestic Impact of Economic Embargo

JN1906162393 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, June 19, INA—Do you have an aspirin? This is a usual question we hear in the morning as we sit in the office. Headache seems to have become a regular visitor to Iraqis nowadays acute shortage of medicine including aspirin.

Samir 'Ali, 36, has two jobs, one in the morning and the other in the evening, and his wife, Kamilah, works too. Yet, the money they earn from the three jobs is hardly enough to feed their four children.

I have no time even to kiss my wife or my children because I am working day and night, he said.

Ban Yusuf, 32, lives with her three children waiting for her husband who is missing since 1983 when he was taken as a prisoner of war in Iran. She has a monthly salary of 300 Iraqi dinars which is equal to the price of one pair of shoes in the Iraqi market today as a result of the trade sanctions. My children sleep hungry and my usual praying to God everyday is to make it easy for us to live.

The chidren every night cry for food. So, she sold her jewelery, furniture and the TV set. Her youngest one Firas still crys every night because he wants to watch TV especially the cartoon.

With glittering eyes, Mrs. Yusuf said, what am I going to tell my man when he comes back and see the house unfurnitured?

In fact, a large number of Iraqi women have started on selling their personal accessories including their gold rings of marriage in order to survive. In Iraq, gold is given to every woman, upon the marriage as dowry. It guarantees her social status and her financial security. The fact that women are forced to sell their gold due to economic crisis within the Iraqi household is an indication of the extent of poverty Iraqis are suffering from because of the economic embargo. Many of the women who are the sole income earners in their families have great difficulties feeding their children.

An increasingly high number of women are forced to do more than one job a day in order to help the family's financial status, thus they are obliged to stop breast-feeding their children as they are busy working.

According to a study conducted by Harvard study team who visited Iraq after the war, many Iraqi women suffered terribly from trauma of miscarriages during the war and the disturbances. Many could not find medical treatment at the time and have continuing problems with their health. A doctor estimated that 7,000 women had miscarriages because of shock in the al-Najaf Province alone.

A woman from the town of al-Hillah told the team that there is an increase in illegal abortions and referred to several maternal deaths that have resulted from these abortions. Poverty was the reason which motivated most women to abort. Often the husbands encouraged their wives to abort, fearing that they could not financially support another child.

In one household visited by the team in al-Najaf, the mother was ill in hospital. The husband who was in a desperate situation commented, my God, if I can return my children to where they came from I will.

Popular Forces Official Urges Arabs To End Embargo

JN1606125493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Jun (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], has affirmed that the embargo imposed on Iraq for almost 33 months is tantamount to a siege on all Arab regimes, noting that it conflicts with the most basic human rights and ethical considerations.

In statements to the Yemeni newspaper AL-JAMAHIR published today, Hammudi added that the UN Security Council is called on to lift the siege on Iraq, particularly since it has honored its commitments and implemented the provisions enshrined in Security Council Resolution 687. He said that the continuation of the unfair embargo, which is not supported by any legal grounds, can only be attributed to lack of ethics.

The APFC secretary general urged all Arab governments without exception to openly declare that they will not continue to tighten the siege on Iraq, because this conflicts with all pan-Arab, religious, and ethical values and considerations.

Hammudi indicated that the siege imposed on Iraq for the past three years seeks to achieve conspiratorial political objectives desired by the United States and its allies. He noted that no connection has thus far been established between the siege and the extent of Iraq's compliance with international commitments.

The APFC secretary general underscored the importance of the efforts being made by Arab popular forces and parties to show solidarity with Iraq and its people, expose the unfair resolutions issued against Iraq and Libya, and put an immediate end to the serious repercussions of the siege.

Hammudi noted the double standards being observed by the UN Security Council toward the issue of the Palestinian deportees, stressing the need for them to return home.

The APFC secretary general added that through the new world order, the United States seeks to impose its domination on world peoples and plunder their resources, maintaining that the new aggressive scheme against Iraq aims to undermine its sovereignty and partition its territory.

It is worth noting that the Baghdad-based APFC, which has thus far convened three conferences, consists of 60 members representing all Arab states proportionally. The work of this group is organized by a general secretariat comprising the secretary general and 10 assistant secretary generals elected from among the members. It has national branches in all Arab states.

Condemns Kuwaiti Death Sentences

JN1506154593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] has strongly condemned the unfair death sentences passed against 10 Palestinian strugglers by the agent rulers imposed on Kuwait.

In a statement to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said the timing of these unfair sentences, which coincides with the convocation of the third World Conference on Human Rights, shows the al-Sabah clique has gone the limit in violating individual Arab human rights. This exposes the double standards observed by this clique's imperialist masters when these basic rights are violated.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said the excesses the al-Sabah dynasty have committed against innocent people and strugglers will not allow them to escape the nation's harsh punishment, even though they derive strength from foreigners' bayonets. When the time for punishment comes, he concluded, it will be too late to express regret.

Columnist Criticizes U.S. 'Colonialism' in Somalia

JN2006161393 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jun 93 p 2

["Stance" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "America Dispenses Death, Not Bread in Somalia"]

[Text] U.S. invaders cannot afford to dole out bread to the starving people of Somalia, but they can give them bullets aplenty. The Somali people's abhorrence of U.S. occupation seems to be a good enough reason for international legitimacy to give the Americans a license to kill at will.

It does not take long to unravel U.S. lies. Even simpletons can tell that, far from being a member of a humanitarian organization administering bread and medicine, the Yankee in Somalia is a heavily armed soldier.

It has dawned on the countries that have fallen prey to latter-day U.S. occupation that, even if they were to go as far as trading their sovereignty for American goodwill, the United States will never fill the empty stomachs of their people. U.S. sidekicks, who have thrown in their lot with the United States, are also stumbling into the realization that being in the good graces of their American masters does not deliver bread, but will bring in hunger, chaos, and economic havoc. What is taking place in Russia now speaks for itself.

We are now seeing a national awakening in Somalia, where the people are shooting at the invaders instead of at each other. The American invaders are now running away from face-to-face battles, choosing instead to engage in intense daily aerial bombing. In this American age, to which traitors and advocates of safety at any cost have resigned themselves, some Third World countries are acting as U.S. proxies in dispensing death and repression in Somalia. They are doing the dirty work for U.S. forces and acting as their human shield.

The role played by the forces that allied themselves with the Americans at Hafar al-Batin is no different from that played by those who joined U.S. forces in Somalia.

Arab and international public opinion have now come to realize that the blue helmets can't provide cover for the U.S. invaders' agenda anymore. With the United Nations now little more than an organization rubber-stamping U.S. decisions, it is not surprising that the Somali people are shouting: Down with the United Nations. The United Nations has failed the test in Somalia just as it did in Iraq. Along with the United Nations, other major organizations have also failed in Somalia. As an Arab, African, and Muslim state, Somalia has been let down by the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Anxious to secure for itself a monopoly over decision-making, the United States—now an openly colonial power—is bent on toppling all institutions that have struck an independent course over the past five decades so that they have no choice but to capitulate. Only agents and waverers will capitulate, however—the worthy will continue to stand tall.

But in this age of Saddam Husayn, U.S. colonialism will not be allowed an open season. Gigantic Iraq has its own agenda, message, and leader, and the 30-state aggression and the siege have failed to make any dent in the Iraqi people's resolve.

Opposition Leader Talabani on U.S. Pledge of Support

LD1906144693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 19 Jun, KUNA—Jalal Talabani, leader of the opposition party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, declared that U.S. President Bill Clinton has affirmed his administration's support for finding a democratic alternative to the regime in Iraq.

Talabani said in a statement to KUNA that President Clinton affirmed to him in a letter which he has received recently that the "American Administration will not turn its back on the Iraqi opposition forces, with all its political factions and orientations which are under the regime of Saddam Husayn."

President Clinton said in his letter that the American Administration is committed to rendering all aid to the Iraqi opposition in its struggle to achieve democracy in Iraq.

Talabani described the meetings of the leaders of the Iraqi opposition in Damascus as "good," and that "it was agreed to hold an extended meeting within a month to discuss the existing make-up of the Iraqi National Congress or to find a better one to unify and activate the Iraqi opposition and make it an effective force inside Iraq."

He also described his talks with the Syrian officials as "very good," and said that "a common understanding was reached concerning the situation in Iraq; the tasks of the Iraqi opposition and the need to unify it in a comprehensive composition acceptable to all the opposition forces."

Replying to a question, Talabani said that the complete agreement reached by all the opposition forces to hold a meeting that includes factions and parties which are members of the Iraqi National Congress and other forces which are not participating in it, shows their eagerness to clear the obstacles in the path of unifying the opposition, as well as the eagerness to work together to get rid of Saddam's regime and to establish a democratic alternative.

Talabani pointed out that "his intensive talks with the nationalist tendency in the Iraqi opposition led to an agreed and common understanding to unify the Iraqi opposition, to endeavor to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, and to rid it of the ruling system."

Talabani further said to KUNA that "the visit to Turkey by Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leader Mas'ud al-Barzani took place in consultation and agreement with him." He said: "I was supposed to go with him on this visit, but new circumstances necessitated my staying behind in Damascus to continue my talks with Syrian officials and with the heads of the Iraqi opposition currently present in Syria."

He indicated that Barzani's visit and talks with Turkish officials will seek to foster relations between Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey, to facilitate the flow of European and U.S. humanitarian aid through Turkey to Kurdistan, and to prolong the stay of the alliance forces in the Incerlik base."

He confirmed that "Barzani's visit to Turkey is not aimed at concluding an agreement on military coordination against the Kurdish Workers Party" [Turkey] and said "we have a prior agreement between us and the

Turkish Government that guarantees the security of the common borders between Iraq and Turkey by Kurdish Peshmerga forces and we have carried out this mission very well."

He went on to add: "The Kurdish Workers Party [KWP] has agreed to vacate the border region and there was not a single KWP fighter left in the border region, and there is no danger or any scope for movement by KWP fighters between Iraq and Turkey." [passage omitted]

Talabani stressed that "there are no secret agreements with the countries visited by the delegation of the opposition Iraqi National Congress. However, we obtained promises from the European countries, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait to support the opposition politically and morally, and we have not received any economic or military aid."

He described the reports circulated that he had received 10 million dollars from Kuwait as "foreign propaganda," and said "they aim to distort our supportive stand of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border demarcation and the sovereignty of Kuwait."

Talabani called for "arming the Iraqi people and the Iraqi opposition in order to realize their fundamental and lofty task in cooperation with the honest patriotic officers of the Iraqi Army to bring down the ruling regime in Baghdad."

"This task cannot be done but with Iraqi hands and patriotic forces with regional and international backing including the military backing," he said, alluding that "the [Iraqi] opposition has informed all the countries it has visited that it does not want any human elements or foreign forces from them to carry out the task of bringing down Saddam Husayn." [passage omitted]

He said the danger of dividing Iraq comes from the regime, pointing out that "the parliament of Kurdistan has turned the north [of Iraq] into a base for the Iraqi opposition and our talks with the neighboring countries and the world are carried out under an Iraqi and not a Kurdish banner, and the aim of the campaign against federalism is to creat confusion for federalism is not a novelty and there are a lot of countries with federal systems."

Touching upon the meetings of the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey and Iran to discuss the situation in the north of Iraq, Talabani said: "In our opinion these meetings are unnecessary." He stressed that "the Iraqi people are very keen on underpinning Iraqi unity and similarly the Kurdistan Front is keen on maintaining Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, Iraqi unity, and the entity of the one Iraqi state." [passage omitted]

"The domestic issues in Iraq concern the Iraqi people and nobody has the right to interfere with the type of regime these people will establish for us following the downfall of Saddam's regime," he said. He wondered: "Would Iran allow us to interfere in its domestic affairs, the answer is no—and similarly we would not allow it to interfere in our own affairs."

In conclusion, Talabani wished the state of Kuwait more progress and prosperity, and the release of the Kuwaiti hostages from the prisons of the Iraqi regime. He also wished Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a successful visit, which begins today.

Talabani on Commitment to Border Security With Turkey

NC1706113293 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 11 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Ankara—The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq Jalal Talabani has said that the Iraqi Kurdish leadership remains committed to preventing any hostile acts against Turkey from their territory.

Talabani also reaffirmed in a press release on Thursday their commitment to maintaining the security of their borders. Talabani stated in his statement that he was profoundly saddened by the recent upsurge in violence in Turkey. "I reaffirm my belief that any outstanding problems can best be resolved with adherence to the principles of peace and democracy," he said. "Violence and terrorism are not the way forward."

Talabani was instrumental in getting Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Peoples Party (PKK) to declare a unilateral cease-fire last March.

In his statement, Talabani expressed his hopes that the continued co-operation with Turkey has disproved the erroneous contention that the Kurdish aspirations in Iraq are a threat to Turkey's national security.

Talabani said the Kurdish democratic process in Iraq could be a partner with those who aspire to furthering democracy and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Al-Basrah Communications Center Reportedly Destroyed

NC1906182193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] AL-MU'TAMAR paper reported in its Thursday [17 June] issue that revolutionaries in al-Basrah Governorate staged a successful operation last week. It said that they blew up and completetly destroyed the main communications building in the al-'Ashshar area near the Umm al-Burum Square in al-Basrah. The destruction was caused by TNT planted inside the building, which was regarded as one of the most sensitive centers in this governorate. The paper added that Captain Waddah, an officer in the Iraqi regime's Intelligence Service, was killed in al-Thawrah city on 1 June.

People Reportedly Dying Daily as Regime Dumps Poison

NC1806190593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1708 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources say the Iraqi regime is dumping tons of poisons in water reservoirs, dams, and the marshlands in southern Iraq as part of a program against Shiite citizens escaping the regime's repression.

An Iraqi opposition leader said 20 to 30 people are dying daily in southern Iraq because of this inhumane campaign. He said the poisons have killed all kinds of fish, the main source of food for citizens hiding in the marshlands.

This campaign follows the Iraqi regime's failure to dry up the marshlands.

Abu Dhabi Meeting of 'Hafar al-Batin Allies' Mocked

JN1606103793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that Iraq was the first to warn against the danger of Iranian expansion, to defend Gulf security, and to stem the expansionist Iranian ambitions.

In an article today, the paper explains that the meek Hafar al-Batin allies, who took part in the aggression against Iraq, recently sent their foreign ministers to meet in Abu Dhabi to allegedly discuss the dangers posed to the region and the responsibility for defending it.

The newspaper says that it is a strange and painful paradox that they should ask Iraq to support the United Arab Emirates' position on the Arab islands occupied by Iran while it was they themselves who invited foreign fleets and provided bases for the aggression and those who took part in it.

The paper asks: How can they ask Iraq to play its role at a time when they conspire against it and continue to besiege it and incite others against it? The paper says that they are trying their best to weaken the only Arab force which curbed Iranian ambitions.

The paper continues: If the Hafar al-Batin allies are really serious, then how can we interpret the mutual wooing between Tehran and the Gulf capitals? And how can the increasing trade and mutual coordination on all fronts be justified?

The paper adds that those dwarves are continuing their non-pan-Arab and nonnational course and that they are involved in a dirty conspiracy that is solely aimed against Iraq. However, in its policies and principles, the paper affirms, Iraq is greater than those dwarves.

Concluding, the paper says: Iraq will remain faithful to its principles and nation. It will remain a basic pillar for the Arab Gulf security and stability. Iraq's resolve and principles will not be discouraged by a dead declaration or an empty statement.

'Izzat Ibrahim Awards Medals of Valor to 'Fighters'

JN1406202693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1828 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Excerpt] On behalf of leader President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief, has awarded medals of valor to groups of fighter officers in active service, retired officers, and other ranks in appreciation of their heroic positions and distinguished courage, which they demonstrated while defending the homeland and the nation's honor and dignity during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah Battle and the great duel, the immortal Mother of Battles.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the honored fighters, as well his excellency's appreciation for and pride in his brave soldiers and their unique heroic deeds. He said: Great Iraq's strength, honor, women, and children have been preserved through your rare courage and your continued jihad against the arrogance of those who committed aggression on our nation and people. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Djerejian, Ross Appointments

'Sources' Express Satisfaction

TA2006042393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Israeli sources in Washington have expressed great satisfaction with the appointments of Edward Djerejian as U.S. ambassador in Israel and Dennis Ross as special peace talks coordinator. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan was told that this is an expression of the Clinton administration's determination and commitment to promote the Middle East peace process.

The sources said they know nothing of an alleged U.S. Administration intention to appoint Dan Kurtzer as U.S. consul general in East Jerusalem. Rumors to this effect spread in Washington over the weekend. Djerejian is due to begin his term in Israel in some six months.

Official U.S. Shuttle Expected

TA2006082293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state or a senior official on his behalf may leave soon on a Middle East shuttle mission in an effort to pull the political process out of its deadlock.

Jerusalem welcomes the appointment of Edward Djerejian as ambassador in Israel, believing this indicates increasing U.S. involvement in the peace process. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

Over the weekend, satisfaction was expressed in Israel regarding U.S. President Bill Clinton's intention to upgrade his involvement in the peace process. For quite some time, Israel has desired a more massive American involvement in the talks, assuming that this is the only move that can pull the talks out of deadlock.

Jerusalem is not yet clear on the nature of the active involvement. It has recently received reports that the United States intends to upgrade its involvement, but the reports did not say exactly how it will do that. The reasonable assumption is that Secretary of State Warren Christopher or one of his senior aides will soon leave on a Middle East shuttle mission. Political sources in Israel said that Christopher had intended to come to the region last week, while attending the Vienna conference, but chose to wait to see how the peace talks evolve.

Israel also welcomes the U.S. Administration's intention to appoint Edward Djerejian as ambassador in Israel. The Jerusalem officials had only kind words about him—an honest man with an unmatched knowledge of the peace process and U.S.-Israeli relations. The Jerusalem sources believe that Djerejian's appointment is yet another indication that the United States intends to maintain an active involvement in the peace process in both Washington and the Middle East.

Beilin: Appointments 'Interesting'

TA2006074493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Ya'aqov Eylon and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Eylon] How would you describe your work with U.S. Ambassador-designate Edward Djerejian?

[Beilin] I have been working with him for years. We started working together in 1987, when he was in charge of the State Department's Israel desk. He is very familiar with the Middle East and knows the Israeli scene. He is very committed to the peace process. He is a very modest person, who knows how to conduct sessions and run things. Since he has been in charge of the multinational process, chairing the U.S. team on the steering committee of the multinational talks, he has been doing a very fine job in attaining understandings and compromises without exacerbating existing tensions. In fact, he is a master in allying tension. I believe that his appointment is particularly important. To me it signals a higher U.S. commitment to be involved in solving the crisis.

[Dan] We have heard that Jerusalem is very pleased with this appointment. Does this mean that we know of some special sympathy that he may have for Israel?

[Beilin] I would not describe him as having a one-sided, pro-Israeli stand, but over the years he has managed to avoid being presented as being against anything. Rather, he is for everything and mainly for the peace process. On a personal level, he is on very friendly terms with many of us who have been dealing with the peace process over the past several years, which explains our feeling of satisfaction. On the professional level, he will need no breaking-in period. The man is fully aware of everything that is happening here, perhaps more so than any other potential candidate. He will begin working immediately.

[Eylon] What do you mean by immediately? It will be six months before he arrives.

[Beilin] I do not know exactly when this will be; I read the news in the papers this morning. But, when he arrives he will be able to begin working immediately, without needing six to eight months to study the issues.

[Eylon] This seems to characterize the recent series of U.S. appointments: Dennis Ross, who will assume a leading role in coordinating Middle East processes, and Dan Kurtzer, consul general-designate in Jerusalem. This team has remained from the previous administration. Predicting the future could be much easier this way, could it not?

[Beilin] Yes, this is very interesting and, I must admit, even unexpected. The appointments are very interesting, and I believe that the fact that members of the previous administration were appointed proves the business-like attitude of the new administration. Dennis Ross is perhaps the best example of this. When Clinton's election campaign started, he immediately joined James Baker on the White House staff, revealing his political affiliations. At the same time, he has a vast experience with Middle East issues, mainly in the context of the preparations for the Madrid conference and Baker's shuttle mission, which preceded and led to this successful conference. His appointment again proves that the new administration is willing to have more veteran people working in the process to upgrade its involvement. The fact that Dennis Ross was given this post—the undefined role of peace process coordinator, which is new in the State Department hierarchy—is certainly an unequivocal sign to the parties that the Americans are willing to upgrade the level of their involvement and devote more time to it. From this point of view, I am very happy with the appointments.

[Dan] Regarding Djerejian, will the fact that he was ambassador in Syria help the negotiations with al-Asad in any way?

[Beilin] In theory, yes, though I do not believe that this will make the necessary change. The fact that he has served in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and now will serve in Israel may help us better understand the regimes there.

Savir: Djerejian 'Experienced Diplomat'

TA2106110993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jun 93 p 10

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Dalya Ya'iri; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ya'iri] Is the Djerejian appointment good or bad for the Jews?

[Savir] His appointment was presumably made first and foremost on the assumption that it is good for the United States. When we look back, we see that the diplomats in Washington and in Israel aim at strengthening a very, very solid foundation of excellent relations. I believe that this appointment, as well as others, is aimed at improving the existing foundation.

[Ya'iri] Nevertheless, it is an interesting appointment. Since Djerejian has also been U.S. ambassador to Syria, he has information, outlooks, and views on everything that is happening in the Middle East—perhaps not always from a point of view that suits us.

[Savir] There is almost no appointment about which we do not start out being skeptical. The only advantage of such skepticism is that usually we are surprised for the better, and I suppose this will be the case once again.

[Ya'iri] Do you know the man? Have you spoken with him?

[Savir] Yes, I have spoken with him. I have been to his office. On the wall in his office there are several words in Chinese script. When I asked him what they say, he told me that one word means opportunity, and another means danger. I think this perhaps portrays his outlook, not only about us, but also the administration's concept—and to a large extent also our concept—that we are at a crossroads and are facing enormous opportunities as well as enormous risks.

[Ya'iri] Is he a very cautious person?

[Savir] He is an experienced diplomat, and that includes caution. But, like in every diplomatic mission, the one to decide in the end is the President or the secretary of state. The ambassador will undoubtedly carry out the policy that we consider important, perhaps unprecedentedly so, of strengthening Israeli-U.S. relations and the peace process through the input of American ideas, because the United States is not only a superpower but also has good ties with both sides. The experience of the people involved, including the ambassador-designate, will definitely contribute to this process.

[Ya'iri] We are inquisitive about the ambassador-designate because of all the outstanding U.S. ambassadors in Israel, the one to especially shine was Sam Lewis, who we felt also represented us to the Americans. The big question being asked in Israel is whether an ambassador who was posted to Syria, Israel's number one enemy, will present our case correctly.

[Savir] Israel is represented in the United States by Itamar Rabinovich. I think that we exaggerate the need for American or other ambassadors to represent us. In my view, it is important for us to be understood, for relations to be tightened, and for the peace process to be advanced. I think that the background of the man and his stands, and especially the positions of the administration, provide a solid foundation for welcoming him here as a friend when he arrives in six months.

Palestinians Said Concerned About Consul Appointment

TA1806183793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] There are unconfirmed reports that senior State Department official Dan Kurtzer will be the next U.S. consul in Jerusalem. Palestinian circles expressed apprehension about the choice because Kurtzer is a Jew.

The present consul, Molly Williamson, will soon be concluding her term and will receive a senior appointment in the State Department.

Articles Note Secret Contacts With PLO Members

Behind-the-Scenes Meetings Described

TA1806154093

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew on 18 June on page 2 carries an article by Yoram Binur titled "They Know

Something We Don't Know," which describes ongoing secret contacts between Israeli and PLO officials through unofficial channels. During these contacts the joint document of principles is being formulated. The article is based on various Palestinian and Israeli sources, all of whom remain anonymous.

Binur depicts the current stalemate in the 10th round of peace talks in Washington by citing Hanan 'Ashrawi's pessimistic forecast. Binur then adds that the Palestinian public is not overly impressed by the bleak statements from Washington, because "most of the Palestinians who are close to the political process" believe that behind the scenes "Israel and the PLO are very close to signing a document of principles, and perhaps such a document has already been signed." Binur quotes these Palestinians as saying that the Washington talks are nothing more than an insignificant show, whereas "the real contacts are secretly pursued in Cairo or in European states."

Binur refers to the elusive itinerary of Faysal al-Husayni over the recent months as providing hints for these contacts. He notes that over the last three months al-Husayni has spent only five days in his Orient House office. Senior Palestinian leaders in the territories, who have tried to contact him in vein, managed to ascertain that "al-Husayni is holding secret contacts with Israel, and not on his own." Other participants in these contacts, according to the Palestinian leaders, are Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who is considered to be the PLO's second in command, and Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser. "On the Israeli side the meetings—which are usually held under U.S. auspices—are attended by senior government officials."

A recent example for such a meeting, according to Binur, is the meeting held by Peres adviser Nimrod Novik and Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo several days ago. Binur notes that the meeting was also attended by Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz, noting that "al-Baz's presence enabled Novik to claim that there was no direct contact between 'Arafat and himself."

A senior Palestinian source is quoted by Binur as saying that "Israel has forgone its opposition to direct talks with the PLO a long time ago. Everybody in Israel is talking with everybody in the PLO. The only practical restriction, according to Israeli sources, is not to talk directly with 'Arafat."

Binur quotes Palestinian sources' comments on al-Husayni's and Abu-Mazin's secret contacts with Israeli officials, in which the Israeli-Palestinian joint declaration of principles is being drafted. A Palestinian source expresses deep dissatisfaction over the fact that the Palestinians in the territories are not being briefed about the recent developments, adding: "We have a serious crisis of trust with the delegation and the top echelon."

Binur says that "Palestinians who are familiar with the issue claim that an agreement has already been reached between Israel, the United States, and the PLO regarding the character of the document of principles and the future of the peace process." A Palestinian source is quoted as saying that "the document of principles will be based on a Rabin-'Arafat vision concerning Gaza First and Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank. This vision includes an agreement not to deal with sensitive and potentially explosive issues such as East Jerusalem and the settlements."

Binur cites an Israeli source who confirms that such a document of principles exists. The source adds: "This document stipulates that the Palestinians are to receive the authority over the Civil Administration in Gaza and the West Bank, which will give them control over the spheres of taxation, trade and industry, public services, and foreign economic relations."

Binur writes that the Palestinians in the territories believe 'Arafat has embraced al-Husayni's proposal, namely "to take whatever Israel is offering, even if this would only amount to self-administration in Gaza and part of the West Bank, while ignoring the issue of Jerusalem." Binur notes that there is strong opposition for this plan in the territories, and that this opposition is not confined to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front and the Democratic Front alone. Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, who is considered a close associate of 'Arafat, has taken a public stand against this plan by demanding that the present round of talks be entirely devoted to the closure on East Jerusalem. When his stand was rejected he ordered his men to boycott the talks, stating: "The declaration of principles is perhaps insignificant in itself, but it can also be very dangerous by leading to an Israeli dictated autonomy, a thing that even the Egyptians opposed during the Camp David days."

Binur observes that 'Arafat, who is aware of the public opinion difficulties in the territories, is preparing the ground work by stressing the dire financial straits of the PLO in numerous newspaper articles written by his supporters. These articles highlight the severe cutbacks in financial aid to welfare and health services in Jordan, as well as in aid given to the widows and orphans of the intifadah in the territories. According to a Palestinian source emphasizing this situation "is the best way of explaining to the Palestinian public why a document of principles is being signed with Israel despite the closure."

A senior Fatah activist in the territories, who is an associate of al-Husayni, is quoted as saying that serious negotiations must be pursued in secrecy, "and the same holds true for the peace negotiations." He notes that the declaration of principles that will be signed in the near future is only the beginning and will be followed by a discussion of the substantial issues.

Binur ends his article with the observation that even al-Husayni's supporters in the territories are concerned lest a declaration of principles which would not include a lifting of the closure will not be signed by most of the Palestinian delegation members. Al-Husayni's supporters note that if this happens Israel would have no choice: "If it wants a declaration of principles, it will have to accept Chairman 'Arafat as a signatory."

'Sources' Play Down Significance

TA2006075193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Sources in Jerusalem have confirmed to our correspondent that Foreign Ministry officials have indeed held informal contacts with the PLO's Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] faction. They denied reports, however, that Nimrod Novik had participated in those contacts.

The sources played down the importance of these contacts, saying that the prime minister is aware of them but continues to give utmost importance only to the talks in Washington. [passage omitted]

Over the weekend, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, denied reports of such contacts. [passage omitted]

[A report by Yehoshu'a Me'iri and Amnon Barzilay on page 3 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 20 June adds: "Egypt and the PLO have recently begun pressuring Israel to enter a direct dialogue with the PLO. In a message to Prime Minister Rabin, 'Arafat wrote: 'I am sure that a meeting between the two of us would promote the negotiations and pave the way to an Israeli-Palestinian agreement.' Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry sent a situation report to its Israeli counterpart stating that without a direct dialogue with the PLO it will be impossible to attain a peace agreement in the region."]

Rabin Hopes U.S. Will Extricate Talks From Deadlock

TA1806185293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin anticipates greater U.S. involvement with the resumption of the peace talks next week in order to extricate them from the current deadlock. Mr. Rabin stressed that Israel adamantly insists on several issues, and that is the reason for the disagreements between the parties. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik spoke with the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] My assessment is that the United States will adopt a slightly more active role, and I think that this will bring, or at least offer, the chance of better results.

[Sukenik] In light of the previous rounds of talks and the beginning of this one, do you not feel that the present framework of talks in Washington, between relatively low-level delegations, has worn itself out?

[Rabin] No, not yet. It would undoubtedly be preferable to hold talks at more senior levels. This, however, is the framework that was decided upon at the Madrid conference. I think that almost all the parties involved in the peace talks, both from the Arab and the Israeli side, have crossed the point of no return on the road toward peace.

[Sukenik] And is 'Arafat indeed an obstacle, or even the main obstacle at this point that is preventing the Palestinians from making progress?

[Rabin] I believe that the people in Tunis today, whether it is 'Arafat or others, are not helping to promote the negotiations in Washington because they seek a greater degree of participation in the process and are not content with participating indirectly through the Palestinian delegates from the territories. I very much hope, however, that this issue will be resolved and that the present format of negotiations is maintained with positive results. [end recording]

Peres: Less Detail, More Progress Needed at Talks

TA1906095693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dalya Ya'iri and political correspondent Shlomo Raz in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Ya'iri] The introduction of the Jerusalem issue seems to have stopped all talk in Washington. Two days ago Faysal al-Husayni declared that if every side insists on full ownership of Jerusalem, negotiations will have no future.

[Peres] I suggest we try not to be overly impressed by this. Their raising the issue of Jerusalem is a means to stop the proceedings. Each time they want to stop them, they raise the Jerusalem issue. The Palestinians are experienced and intelligent enough to understand that this game cannot start with Jerusalem. If they make Jerusalem the central issue, there will be no discussion, no negotiations at all. I think this is tactical, and it does not impress me very much.

I think an extremely interesting situation has silently evolved. I will put this cautiously: Some Palestinians are quite seriously critical of the Americans. In addition, they have really despaired of the Arabs. It can be said that, paradoxically, we are now their big hope. And, they are perfectly familiar with our red lines. They know that on one hand, we approach the negotiations seriously, and on the other, there are some serious negotiating issues that we will not cede.

[Raz] If we are their only hope....

[Peres, interrupting] I did not say the only hope; I said that compared with the others, we are a bigger hope. I would not want inaccurate headlines on this matter.

[Raz] Well, with regard to that, what can Israel do to give the negotiations another push, to try to conclude this round of talks with at least a joint paper of principles?

[Peres] What we should possibly do is reduce the written part of the negotiations. We are obsessed with the Bible and they with the Koran, and it sometimes seems to me that we are all bent on composing new scriptures. Perhaps more things should be stated orally and fewer in writing. Also, we must allow some definitions to remain vague, unclear.

[Raz] What would you say should remain vague, less explicit? Accords? Understandings?

[Peres] I think that the handling of the matter of control over water and territories should be left to real life to a certain extent. I also think that the whole matter of outlooks, of concept [preceding word in English], and so forth could be discussed a little less. You know, political negotiations are sometimes like a plane ticket: If you try to read all the small script on your ticket, everything the airline is and is not responsible for, you may decide not to fly anywhere. I believe we ought to build more on understandings, because when we get to the point of formulations, we will try to do it with as much clarity as possible. I do not know whether we will attain clarity; I doubt that we will reach understanding. [sentence as heard]

[Ya'iri] PLO-Tunis seems to be heaping serious obstacles on the path of the peace process.

[Peres] It is true, although we must add that PLO-Tunis was the body that decided on returning to the negotiations.

[Ya'iri] Right now, PLO-Tunis is also the body sending emissaries to every country in the world to discuss Jerusalem.

[Peres] There is a double tactic here. They do not want to terminate the negotiations on the one hand.... [pauses] We have to understand that the Palestinians have no alternative. Of all our negotiating partners, the residents of the territories are the only ones with nothing to give, the only ones with no other solution. In addition, their economic situation is very difficult, as is their political situation as a result of internal strife.

[Raz] By the way, are you in favor of maintaining the closure in its present form?

[Peres] I am in favor of doing everything in the foreseeable future to ease the economic plight in the territories, as that will make negotiating easier for them. The negotiators are apparently under quite heavy pressure from the territories, and the Arab pressure on them is even heavier than apparent to us.

[Raz] Does the closure encumber the Washington peace talks?

[Peres] I think some of the positions embraced by the PLO are designed to show to the territories' population that they are tough guys [preceding two words in English], that they are insisting on their stands no matter what.

[Ya'iri] Are we not inordinately reliant on American pressure? Are we not resorting to U.S. assistance too much, which could be detrimental to us?

[Peres] We should definitely take advantage of the good offices of the Americans, but that should definitely not replace or weaken our own stands and initiatives.

I would like to add here that in the sphere of multilateral talks, we have reached a situation in which all the committees have convened; in which the Palestinians have definitely behaved OK, not sending us PNC [Palestine National Council] members this time; and in which we have attained very interesting accords on several issues, some of them extremely sensitive, such as the refugees and arms control issues.

[Ya'iri] To return to the U.S. involvement and the fact that we seem to be counting on them: Is that a mistake?

[Peres] The United States has one important advantage: It is better equipped than anyone else to deal with international issues. No other country in the world is as well organized in terms of portfolios, contacts, and responsibility. Also, it is a great friend of ours. However, the American output—just as we have never asked the Americans to send American soldiers to defend Israel....

[Raz, interrupting] But there have been ideas or talk about sending in American or international troops onto the Golan Heights in the framework of Israeli-Syrian discussions about the so-called security regime.

[Peres] There have been proposals to this effect, but no one has ever concluded anything. Anyway, we are still at an embryonic stage; all the decisions are still ahead of us. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Der'i Indicted on Corruption Charges

Draft Charge Sheet Submitted to Rabin

TA2006042893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] First to the report that the attorney general last week submitted to the prime minister a draft charge sheet against Interior Minister Arye Der'i regarding suspected fraud. The details from Tzvi Pantanowitz:

For some three years now, the police fraud squad has been investigating charges that Arye Der'i, leader of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party, a partner in the government coalition, abused his position to misappropriate funds for his personal use. For two and a half years of that period, the minister opted to remain silent in the face of demands that he answer the complaints concerned. About six months ago he finally relented against the advise of legal counsel, and an intensive period of police questioning began, sometimes twice a week.

Early last week, Attorney General Yosef Harish and the State Attorney's Office submitted the draft indictment to Justice Minister David Liba'i, and on Wednesday [16 June] the prime minister was handed a copy. Qol Yisra'el's legal affairs reporter Mira Amsalem says that Der'i is suspected of taking bribes, fraud, and breach of trust. The attorney general told Rabin that there would have to be a preliminary hearing for Der'i soon, something that the Knesset member is entitled to under law.

Complicating the situation is the petition to the High Court by the Association for Quality Government, which argues that Premier Rabin should not have reappointed Der'i to the Interior Ministry because of the ongoing investigation against him. The State Attorney's office is said to be reluctant to defend Der'i in this case, at a time when a charge sheet is being prepared against him.

After the attorney general conducts the preliminary hearing for Der'i, the issue then goes to the Knesset House Committee to decide whether to recommend to the plenum that Der'i's immunity be lifted. Justice Minister Liba'i reportedly wants the House to remove Der'i's immunity as soon as the charge sheet is submitted to the committee and wants Der'i to suspend himself within weeks. All this would have to be completed before the house rises for the summer recess, at the end of the first week in August. Whether it all can be completed by then is not clear. [passage omitted]

Der'i: SHAS To Remain With Coalition

TA2006182893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Interior Ministry Arye Der'i told Israel Television this evening that if a charge sheet against him is submitted to court, he would suspend himself from the cabinet. The minister nevertheless stressed that this would not cause SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to bolt the coalition.

The entire senior rank of the Justice Ministry will participate in a meeting with the prime minister in order to discuss the Der'i affair and its attendant ramifications. Yitzhaq Rabin said that all procedures stipulated by law would be exhausted.

Preliminary Hearing in 3 Weeks

TA2006193093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] It has been decided to submit a charge sheet against Interior Minister Arye Der'i. This evening, the attorney general sent Minister Der'i a draft copy of the indictment, which includes charges of taking bribes, fraud, breach of trust by a public official, and falsification of corporate documents.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the attorney general informed the interior minister that he would be entitled to a preliminary hearing and be permitted to submit arguments to refute the charges against him. The hearing will take place in three weeks.

Officials To Leave for PRC for Talks With DPRK

TA2106090993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The contacts between Israel and North Korea in an effort to prevent the supply of long-range missiles to Arab states will be resumed in Beijing later this week.

Two Israeli diplomats—Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, and Avi Siton—will leave for the PRC where they will meet with the secretary general of the North Korean Communist Party, who is considered one of the most senior officials in Pyongyang.

Bentzur, who is also serving as acting head of the Israeli team to the talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians, will suspend his participation in the peace talks due to this special mission. The Israeli diplomats' Beijing talks were coordinated between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when they met in Vienna last week. Peres also reported to his South Korean counterpart on the contacts with North Korea.

Following the meeting with the North Korean representative in Beijing, an Israeli envoy will leave for Seoul and Tokyo to brief those governments on the details of the contacts. North Korean media reported last week on the expansion of burgeoning ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

Rabin To Pay Official Visit to PRC in Oct

TA2106081593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jun 93 p 10

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will pay an official visit to the PRC in early October.

The prime minister's bureau finalized the details of the visit and the invitation with the Chinese over the weekend. Next week the prime minister leaves on an official visit to the Netherlands and France, where he will meet with the prime ministers, members of parliament, businessmen, and the Jewish communities.

Dispute With U.S. Holding Up Joint Committee

TA2106130493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 93 pp A1, 8

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] A dispute between the United States and Israel is holding up the establishment of a joint committee to discuss Israeli requests to export American military technology to third countries.

According to administration sources, the Americans are delaying the convening of the committee because they fear that if they agree to such deals it will make it more difficult for them later to complain about Israel's improper use of sensitive technology. Israeli sources said that between the two sides "there is a problem of wording, demands, and understandings, and each side is trying to overcome the difficulties and reach an agreement."

The decision to set up a joint committee for military technology was made toward the end of George Bush's administration to resolve the dispute, which had cast a shadow over relations between the two states. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, only the committee for the transfer of bilateral technology has convened. The committee's first meeting was in the United States in May, when the biennial strategic meeting between senior officials of both countries was held. At that meeting, the Americans presented a draft agreement aimed at making it easier to export U.S. components for the Arrow missile project. The accord has still not been signed, but Israel believes it will be signed soon.

The committee for the transfer of technology to third parties, which has not yet convened, is meant to study whether Israeli arms export deals meet the U.S. Administration's conditions. The Clinton administration has already disqualified a large Israeli arms deal to a Third World country—a $100 million sale of refurbished Skyhawks—because that state is suspected of human rights violations. Sources in the Israel Aircraft Industries, which were due to refurbish the aircraft, said last week that from their point of view "the deal is dead." That country recently signed a deal for the purchase of new aircraft from Britain.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, which drafted the report on the Israeli Arrow project, said that the administration has to tighten monitoring of sensitive technological transfers to the project, as well as financial outlays. The United States is funding 72 percent of the costs of the current stage of the missile's development. [passage omitted]

Defense sources in Israel said yesterday that the report criticizes the administration and not Israel. "We have not prevented the Americans from monitoring," the sources said, adding "If they want to supervise, they can go ahead." Referring to claims that American technology is being used in the project, the sources said that the Arrow is an Israeli development. Israel has transferred in the past and continues to transfer to the United States the knowledge gained from the development project.

Air Force Exhibits Adapted Air-to-Surface Missile

TA2106082393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jun 93 p 13

[Excerpt] On the occasion of Air Force Day being marked this week, the Air Force yesterday revealed for the first time an antimissile battery air-to-surface missile called the Purple Fist [Egrof Sagol]. It was used for the first time at the start of the Lebanon war in 1982 and destroyed the Syrian missile batteries.

BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR reports that the Purple Fist is Israel's adaptation of the American AGM-78 missile, the General Dynamics radiation homing missile. The missiles were launched from a distance of dozens of kilometers and homed in on the missile batteries and destroyed them. [passage omitted]

IAF: High Probability Ron Arad Alive in Iran

TA2106061593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] In a special interview published in today's issue of BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, Israel Air Force [IAF] Commander Herzl Budinger says that we believe with a high degree of probability that navigator Ron Arad is alive and is being held in some secret place, apparently in Iran. Major General Budinger noted that he personally is certain Ron Arad is alive; I am convinced of this, he said. At the same time, he stressed that until those holding Arad say where he is, we will not know anything about his fate for certain. This does not mean that we are being passive, he said. I acknowledge the fact that serious efforts are being made to obtain information regarding Arad and to have him released. The IAF commander said he believes nothing more can be done.

Referring to the IAF raids in south Lebanon, Gen. Budinger stressed that the terrorist targets are located within civilian population centers. Although it is easier to destroy terrorist headquarters with fighter jets, the IAF prefers to use helicopters, which are more accurate.

Soldiers Jailed for Refusing To Serve in Territories

TA1906160493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Two soldiers in the reserves received jail sentences at the end of last week for refusing to serve in the territories. Yanay Lev-Or, a paratrooper and a 25-year-old kibbutz member was sentenced to 27 days in jail after refusing to serve in the Gaza Strip. This is his second jail term for refusing to serve in the territories.

Another soldier, a resident of Jerusalem, was given 14 days in jail for refusing to serve as a warden at a military prison in the territories.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that since the outbreak of the intifadah, 181 soldiers have been jailed for refusing to serve in the territories.

MAPAM Chairman Announces New Golan Settlements

TA1906141793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] MAPAM [United Workers Party] Chairman Hanan Erez said that preparations were currently under way to set up four unauthorized settlements on the Golan Heights.

Speaking at a MAPAM convention in northern Israel, Hanan Erez said that the groundwork had already been laid for four settlements northeast of the Golan Heights' moshav of Sha'al, and the settlers planned to arrive within the next few hours. Erez asserted that the police had set up roadblocks in order to prevent the settlers from bringing trailers to the area. This was reported by our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling.

Police Guarding Proposed Site

TA1906200993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Contrary to statements made by MAPAM [United Workers Party] Chairman Hanan Erez, no preparations were made today to establish four new settlements on the Golan Heights, nor was there any special reinforcement of police units in the area since the local police force was already reinforced by border policemen one week ago.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv notes that there had been a plan to set up a new settlement approximately one month ago, but it was canceled at the last minute. Police are now stationed at the site where the Golan residents had planned to establish a new settlement.

Eli Malka, the chairman of the Golan Settlements Committee, reiterated that the residents would put up a new settlement but did not specify any date.

Security Guard in Har Gilo Shot by 'Terrorists'

TA1806191893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] An Israeli security guard was shot and injured this evening by terrorists at a construction site near Har Gilo, which is situated south of Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two terrorists arrived at the site and asked to speak with two security guards who were on duty. While talking, one of the terrorists pulled out a revolver and fired several shots at the two Israelis. One of the guards sustained moderate to serious injuries in the stomach and legs, while the second guard managed to take cover and was not hurt. The two terrorists fled from the scene.

The security forces have closed off the area and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has launched a manhunt for the terrorists.

The wounded man is now being evacuated to Jerusalem's Hadassah-En Kerem Hospital.

Gaza Woman Dies After Inhaling Tear Gas

TA2006044493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 20 Jun 93

[Text] A 50-year-old woman in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died yesterday from injuries suffered after inhaling tear gas. The body was taken to the Forensic Institute at Abu-Kabir near Tel Aviv. She was injured during a demonstration at the camp. Six residents of the camp were injured by Army fire, and another 10 from tear gas inhalation.

Near Ramallah, two Israelis were injured by stones thrown at their car. They received initial treatment at the settlement of Giv'on and were later taken to Hadassah's Mount Scopus Hospital.

A Palestinian youth was killed and his friend injured when they wandered into an Israeli Army firing range in the Jordan Valley. The wounded youth was taken by helicopter to hospital. The Army is looking into the circumstances of the incident.

Security Forces Arrest Arabs for Arms Dealing

TA2006133893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The Shin Bet and the minorities division of the Valleys Subdistrict Police have arrested five suspected arms dealers. Three of the suspects are residents of Umm al-Fahm and two come from al- Tayyibah in the Triangle. One of the suspects was found in possession of an M-16 rifle and two Uzi sub-machine guns that were stolen from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the affair is still being investigated and that charges will be brought against all those involved within several days.

Palestinians Leave for Police Training in Jordan

TA2006075993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] This morning, 28 Palestinian residents of the territories left for Jordan to study police work in preparation for the establishment of a Palestinian police force. The group will join several other Palestinians who left for police studies in Jordan on 18 June.

Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports that the Tunisian paper (AL-SHURQ) cites a senior PLO source as saying that the autonomy police cadets should be less than 45 years old and graduates of a recognized Arab university.

'Insane' Hamas Activist Permitted To Return

TA2006160793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Following a request from the International Red Cross [IRC], Israel has permitted one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to return home from Lebanon.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IRC requested that the man be permitted to return after the other deportees claimed that he had gone insane and even attacked two of them with an ax. The man is 'Ali Abu-'Ajwa, the son in law of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Environment Ministry Introduces Radioactivity Checks

TA1906101893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The Environment Ministry has achieved an arrangement with the U.S. 6th Fleet under which ministry personnel will be able to inspect for radioactivity the area around ships docked in Israeli ports.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that under the arrangement, the ministry will henceforth receive advance notice about the arrival of nuclear-powered ships. Ministry personnel will be able [illegible] check the ships' sewage and surrounding air and water. In addition, the ministry has been included in the 6th Fleet's alert program and will be notified of malfunctions of ships' nuclear reactors.

Our correspondent further reports that under a sweeping new Environment Ministry plan, the Dimona and Nahal Soreq nuclear centers will also undergo periodic radioactivity checks. The new plan also includes 6th Fleet vessels.

The plan was put together in the wake of Minister Yosi Sarid's arrangement with the Atomic Energy Commission following the discovery of radioactive sewage in Hamakhtesh Haqatan. The Environment Ministry will position independent monitoring systems checking air, water, soil, vegetation, and groundwater samples in various locations.

King Begins Official Talks in Washington 18 Jun

Received by President Clinton

JN1806175893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Report by correspondent Murid Hammad from Washington, D.C.]

[Text] Official talks between the Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the U.S. side led by President Bill Clinton have begun at the White House. His majesty arrived at the White House at 1200 Washington time, 1900 Amman time. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and senior White House officials welcomed his majesty. Afterward, His Majesty King Husayn headed for the Oval Office where he was received by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President Clinton has placed particular emphasis on Jordan's importance, achievements, and role in Middle East peace. Today's meeting was attended by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Anthony Lake. On the Jordanian side, it was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad. The talks are expected to end at approximately 2100 Amman time today, during which a working luncheon banquet will be held. Several issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, and the peace talks are expected to be discussed.

His majesty's visit to the United States will last approximately one week. He will meet with several U.S. officials, led by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary Les Aspin, and prominent U.S. Congressmen.

Makes Comments to Press

JN1806191893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, here is a recording of the remarks made by His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton to reporters during his majesty's meeting with President Clinton:

[Begin recording in English] [Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] how people will think about [words indistinct]

[Clinton] I hope, I am very pleased that the king is here. I looked forward to his visit for a long time, and I am very impressed with the progress that has been made in Jordan, moving toward economic reforms, moving toward democracy. And also, I am very grateful for the support of the peace process that the king has demonstrated so consistently. I have the feeling that maybe all the parties have now concluded, not that they have differences, but that there is no alternative to peace. If we do see this thing through and find some resolution, it will be in no small measure because King Husayn for so many years has persistently pushed us toward peace. And the United States will do what it can to help achieve that.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think are the prospects for peace soon? Does it look any better to you now?

[King Husayn] I believe some considerable ground has been covered. We are still a long way from getting there, but there is no alternative. We must do everything we can not to get [words indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think Israel will be more amenable now to recognizing a Palestinian state?

[King Husayn] I don't know if Israel accepts or otherwise, but I believe that there is one important element and that is that people on either side of the divide feel that this is the moment and are determined to continue to move ahead until a just peace is there that the future generations can enjoy. [end recording]

Meets U.S. Vice President

JN2006100393 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Washington, 20 Jun (PETRA)—At their place of residence in Washington last night, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Mrs. Gore.

His majesty and the U.S. vice president discussed issues of mutual concern, bilateral ties, and world and regional issues.

Mr. and Mrs. Gore dined with his majesty.

Results of Meeting Viewed

JN1906113393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Successful and Fruitful Husayn-Clinton Meeting"]

[Text] As was expected, the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton was successful, and their talks, which continued until late last night, have been fruitful by all standards.

It has been noted that President Clinton hailed the great achievements realized by the Jordanian economy and the democratic changes entrenched by His Majesty King Husayn. Clinton also lauded King Husayn's role in supporting the peace efforts and his eagerness not to waste the available peace opportunity.

President Clinton's testimony about King Husayn's role in making the democratic experience a successful model in the region is a correct assessment that has reflected positively on the Jordanian-U.S. talks.

Likewise, President Clinton's testimony about His Majesty King Husayn's role in seizing the current peace opportunity and in working for its success has also reflected positively on the Jodanian-U.S. summit meeting.

It has been noted that His Majesty King Husayn was able to brief President Clinton on the obstacles to the desired progress in the peace negotiations and on the constants of the Arab position, which are based on resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

King Husayn also briefed President Clinton on the developments in the Arab region and the dangers that could result from any failure in the peace process—something that would endanger security and stability in the region and set off conflicts and destructive wars.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit and his talks with President Clinton and his aides, particularly Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and with a number of U.S. Congress members are being held at an appropriate time, and will produce results that are in the interest of Jordan, the Arab nation, and the peace process.

Summit Said To Help Peace Talks

JN2006082793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jun 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "On the Jordanian-U.S. Summit"]

[Text] During King Husayn's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, his majesty reaffirmed that all parties to the peace process should do their best not to waste the available peace opportunity and continue to build on what has so far been achieved. This is because the road before us is still long and because there is no alternative to a just and comprehensive peace.

Jordan reiterates its determination to achieve the desired progress toward peace and to close this painful chapter in the history of the peoples of the Middle East because it realizes that the peoples of this region on both sides of the conflict have developed a deep feeling that it is time to achieve peace and that they, above all, are determined to move forward toward a peace that is acceptable to and can be defended by future generations.

It was a source of joy for us in Jordan that U.S. President Bill Clinton praised the progress our country has achieved under King Husayn's leadership and that our democratic experiment and economic reforms as well as the vital role we are playing in the peace process gained the admiration of the U.S. leadership, which now raises high the slogans of democracy, peace, and human rights.

Such public U.S. appraisal of Jordan's domestic and foreign policies coincides with the U.S. president's reaffirmation to His Majesty King Husayn that Washington will play a direct role in the negotiations, increasing confidence of achieving the desired progress on the road to peace and in the bilateral relations.

Based on all this, we can say that the Jordanian-U.S. summit along with the U.S. renewal of its commitments toward the peace process give fresh momentum to the ongoing bilateral negotiations in Washington, which increases our hopes of achieving in this round results that are more important than those achieved in the past nine rounds.

Timing, Aims of U.S. Congress Report Called 'Fishy'

JN1906112693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jun 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan Friday questioned the timing and aims of American press report published Thursday which attempted to open "an old file" on Jordanian-Iraqi relations during the Gulf war.

The U.S. State Department, on other hand, responded to those reports by saying that they gave no new information that would "lead us to reopen and investigation that during the Gulf war Jordan shared U.S., allied and Israeli intelligence with Iraq."

The press reports, which appeared in at least three American newspapers and carried by a major-U.S. news agency, claimed that newly-released classified information from a congressional report "confirmed" that Jordan was smultaneously receiving American military aid and helping Iraq with United States military and intelligence assistance.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani described the press reports as "a repetition of old claims which are groundless." He said the Kingdom was getting used to "people who are influenced by pro-Israeli lobby to issue statements like this at certain times."

Dr. al-'Anani also said that the timing of the press reports a month after the information was declassifed indicates that it "was timed" to coincide with His Majesty King Husayn's scheduled meeting with President Bill Clinton Friday.

Other Jordanian sources familiar with the workings of the press in the U.S. described the timing of the press reports as "fishy."

The sources also added that while the press reports implied that the information was implicating Jordan in clandestine dealings, "Congress is aware of Jordan's true activities and is not upset with us."

This sentiment was further reiterated by Michael McCurry, the State Department spokesman, who told reporters Thursday that the former administration of President George Bush had "made a very exhaustive analysis of that information... and the result of all that is that there was no evidence to verify these reports."

The report, prepared by General Accounting Office (GAO)—was declassified a month ago at the request of Democrat Congressman David Obey, chairman of the Foreign Operations Sub-Committee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee who had been following th issue since September of last year when it first became apparent that Congress was being misled about aid to the Kingdom.

What it revealed, according to a copy of the declassified report made available to the JORDAN TIMES, was that "Congress had been given misinformation by the previous administration concerning the delivery of military equipment to the government of Jordan."

It added that during debate on the Gulf war in March of 1991, legislative amendments were offered to cut off military aid to Jordan because of its "statements in support of Iraq."

But "on the basis of administration assurances that the president on his own initiative had cut off all military aid to Jordan, members of the House and the Senate supported administrative efforts to modify legislative language to permit presidential discretion in providing aid to Jordan," the GAO report added.

The report adds that the Bush administration misled Congress about Jordan's help to Iraq by saying that shipments of U.S. military equipment to Jordan had been stopped when actually they continued during the war.

According to the report, U.S. intelligence agencies "confirmed" that Jordan and Iraq cooperated in several ways during the war. The report says Jordan provided Iraq with allied and Israeli intelligence, sold Iraq military spare parts and provided access to U.S. technology. In addition, the reports says, the two countries conducted joint military training exercises after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

According to the report, there was debate within the U.S. intelligence community about the seriousness of Jordan's sanctions-busting. The Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency viewed the violations as significant, but the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) did not.

Congressman Obey ws trying to prove that the former administration misinformed the House on aid to the Kingdom. What ensued was a controversy between the Bush administration and Democrats in the House over this point and Mr. Obey had taken pains to explain that his efforts were not intended to harm Jordan.

"I will continue to support administration policy (on) Jordan because it is important to the peace process, but as chairman of the foreign operations comittee I feel an obligation to inform the Congress when it has been misled," he said in a statement to the House in October of last year when he first began investigating the issue.

"It is basically an issue between the former administration and the Congress and is not directed at Jordan," a well-informed Jordanian source told the JORDAN TIMES.

Most Jordanian official, including Dr. al-'Anani believed the report would bear little negative impact on the King's talks with President Clinton or with senators and congressmen.

U.S. Congress 'Zionist Lobbying Groups' Criticized

JN1906125093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 30

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "The Jordanian Slogan"]

[Text] Events in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf Region, as well as the moves of the Zionist lobby at the U.S. Congress, demonstrate insistence on preventing an end to the chapter of the tragic Gulf war. There has been insistence on promoting hostilities and hatred, and encouraging fighting, starvation, and blockades for two distinctly obvious reasons: Israel's security and Arab oil.

On the eve of King Husayn's visit to Washington, the Zionist lobbying groups raised hostile slogans against Jordan because of its Arab nationalist stand on the Gulf war. Indeed, it was these same slogans that maintained the Cold War and helped ignite hot wars over the past few decades. Because of these slogans, the Middle East region has not known peace, security, and stability.

Jordan, as well as the region's states and peoples, have paid the price for U.S. policies for many decades during which the pro-Israel mentality controlled the White House and the Congress. The permanent picture of the Middle East has been Israeli wars and the squandering of Arab resources on armaments and military equipment at the expense of the development and progress of the region's peoples.

Israel's security and the control of Arab oil are the causes of all the wars, including the Gulf war. When it comes to reckoning, it can be said that by its political stands, Jordan has endeavored to solve the region's problems without resorting to polarization and alliances and without internationalizing the region's wars and disputes.

Jordan's call for an "Arab solution" during the Gulf war was not a mere slogan but a humanitarian and Arab concept of peace, security, and stability. When the slogan of Israeli security and the control of oil triumphed, the result was the destruction of more than one Arab country economically and militarily, the imposition of a siege on Iraq, and the failure of all the region's development projects.

This region will not achieve peace, stability, or prosperity as long as the voice of the Zionist lobby in the U.S.

Congress has an effective influence on the region's present and future, and as long as the United States does not pay attention to the Arab nation's interests, hopes, and aspirations.

Deputies Meet, Discuss Election Law, Peace Talks

JN1706084493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jun 93 p 28

[Text] Amman—A group of around 25 deputies representing various political trends yesterday held a meeting during which they discussed Election Law bill and the possibility of summoning the parliament to an extraordinary session to discuss political developments.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that discussion during the meeting focused on the 10th round of peace talks. Conferees voiced their opinion on this round and their possible results.

It was decided that a committee comprising Deputies Dr. Fawzi Tu'aymah, Layth Shubaylat, Bassam Haddadin, Dr. Humam Sa'id, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi be set up to draft a statement on the topics raised by the deputies during the meeting.

Disapproval of Meeting Reported

JN1706082393 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 17 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—Some politicians, party officials, and parliamentarians have denounced the meeting which the Islamic block held while leader Husayn was outside the country. These figures asserted that such meetings do not help national unity, and constitute a message, which certain parties are used to making whenever His Majesty King Husayn visits the United States. Apparently, the aim is to inform the U.S. quarters that the Jordanian arena is not cohesive and to foil Husayn's visit, as well as give an uneducated guess as to the outcome of the negotiations.

A political source has said that some people seek to create tension in the Jordanian atmosphere to block the government plans to amend the [Elections] Law and press for extending the House of Representatives' term in office.

The statement, which was issued yesterday, also speaks of Jordanian political prisoners. This was also a message to the Geneva [as published] conference on human rights, accusing Jordan of violating these rights.

'Nearly 200' Bosnian Refugees Received in Amman

JN1906140093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jun pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—Nearly 200physically or psychologically scarred Bosnian Muslim refugees arrived here early Friday and were settled in a furnished school building in the al-Jawfah neighbourhood overlooking downtown Amman.

The group of 182 men, women and children from 31 families was flown to Amman from the Croatian capital, Zagreb, aboard a chartered Royal Jordanian [RJ] aircraft. A similar flight on Sunday will bring in the rest of the 420 refugees that Jordan will host pending an end to the strife among the splinter republics of former Yugoslavia.

Twenty-one of the arrivals were immediately hospitalised for treatment; four of them suffer from severe neurotic problems, said officials of the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Organisation, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who personally received the group at the airport at 3 a.m.

The move to fly the refugees to Jordan for temporary shelter was initiated by His Majesty King Husayn, who, in a March 20 letter to leaders of Arab and Muslim countries, called for immediate action to end the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

"Since Islam is the religion of forgiveness, coexistence and fraternity, the unjustified drive in attacking Islamic groups and landmarks for political or ethnic reasons or because of historical differences made one believe that what is happening could be part of a multi-dimensional plan.

"That (plan) was engineered by dominating powers and their allies to stand up to Islam," the King said.

Most of the refugees who arrived in Amman Friday had been held in Serb-controlled detention camps before being released following an international outcry over the prisons reminiscent of Nazi camps during World War II. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faysal, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zayd, acting Prime Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, Royal Court advisor 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi and other senior officials, welcomed the refugees at Amman airport.

The refugees were flown aboard an RJ plane, which flew to Zagreb Thursday evening after completing a regular flight to Paris.

Jordan has contributed over 1,000 members of its security forces to the U.N. peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia. It has also sent several shipments of relief supplies.

King Husayn was the second head of state to visit the strife torn area in September 1992. Crown Prince Hasan visited the area twice in the last eight months.

The al-Jawfah school will serve as temporary home for all the 420 Bosnians expected in Jordan, relief officials said.

Most basic amenities, including furnished kitchens and clinics, are available in the building in addition to television and radio.

Families are accommodated in partitioned segments of classrooms. Many Jordanians who have had their education in Yugoslavia and therefore speak the language have volunteered to help the refugees.

IDF Commander: SLA's Future Issue for Negotiation

TA2006171893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Interview with Brigadier General Gabi Ashkenazi, chief of liaison unit with Lebanon, by Dani Levi, "somewhere in south Lebanon," date not given; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Ashkenazi] There is no doubt that there has been an increase in attacks against the security zone in the first half of 1993, and this is a continuation of the trend started late last year.

[Levi] To what do you contribute that?

[Ashkenazi] We think that the main reason is the peace process. The main organization carrying out the attacks is Hizballah, which as is known, is opposed to the process. It gives expression to that position by attempting to derail the process through attacks against the security zone, as well as by strengthening the organization's hold in south Lebanon.

[Levi] To what extent does the SLA [South Lebanese Army] manage to prevent actions by terrorist organizations against the security zone?

[Ashkezani] There is no doubt that the SLA, like the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—which is situated in the security zone—is at war with Hizballah and Palestinian organizations, especially those belonging to the rejectionist front. We can say with certainty that despite the increased threats from roadside bombs and attempted infiltrations, we have been more successful in foiling antivehicle attacks and uncovering terrorist bands since the start of the year, even compared to last year. We think that is due to the fact that the SLA is now more efficient and professional, and because it is being backed by the IDF in its activities. All those things together have lead to improved success in dealing with attacks.

[Levi] How do you view Syria's role in the recent rise in attacks in the security zone?

[Ashkenazi] I cannot link Syria directly to any specific attack, but I assume that Syria is aware of what is happening in the security zone, and I think that had the Syrians wanted to cut down or end Hizballah activities they could have done so. [passage omitted]

Until an acceptable settlement is found, we will not leave the area and the future of the region's inhabitants, in particular the SLA, will be one of the negotiating issues with the Lebanese Government. When Israel's prime minister visited south Lebanon recently he said quite clearly that the SLA's future is one of the issues for negotiation within the framework of the talks with the Lebanese Government. In the meantime, not only are we continuing to strengthen the SLA and to reinforce the IDF's backing for the organization, but we are also continuing to provide humanitarian aid for infrastructure—roads, water, education, health—for the inhabitants of the security zone. We did that last year, we are continuing to do so this year, and we are planning to continue doing it next year. In that sense, we are even expanding our activities.

Resistance Clashes With SLA, Israeli Forces in South

Iqlim al-Tuffah Shelled

NC1706195193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Israeli occupation forces shelled the Iqlim al-Tuffah region this afternoon, targeting Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, Jarj'u, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

In a statement today, the Islamic Resistance declared that one of its groups used machine guns and rockets to attack a post manned by the occupation forces and the agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in Sujud this afternoon. During a 10-minute clash, the resistance group destroyed the post.

Israelis Recruiting Youths 'by Force'

NC2006144393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] According to arrivals from the occupied strip, Israeli occupation forces raided Kafr Killa and led by force approximately 30 youths blindfolded to al-Majidiyah camp for recruitment.

At approximately 1430, Israeli warplanes again flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, staging low-altitude mock raids over both areas.

SLA Post Attacked

NC2006183093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] According to security sources in the south, the Lebanese resistance attacked a position manned by the agents allied with Israel [South Lebanese Army—SLA] with rockets and mortars today. These sources said that the resistance fighters fired anti-tank missiles and mortar at the agent's position in the village of Bayt Lif inside the occupied border strip. These sources said that agent Antoine Lahd's gunmen returned fire at the resistance position. There are no reports on casualties.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizballah military wing, claimed responsibility for the attack. It said that the rockets set fire to the fortified position.

Officials expect an escalation in attacks against the Israelis and Antoine Lahd army forces in south Lebanon before and during the 10th round of peace talks that opened in Washington last week.

It has been learned that the Israeli occupation forces in Bayt Lif, Yarin, Jabal Humayyid bombarded the outskirts of Kafra, Yatar, and Bayt Lif.

Resistance Statement on Attack

NC2106071293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] An Islamic Resistance group has attacked a patrol of the Zionist enemy near Bayt Lif, killing or wounding a number of Zionists. In a statement on the operation, the Islamic Resistance said: With the advent of a new hegira year and the sacred month of Muharram, the month of sacrifice; and in memory of the greatest martyr, Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn, may God's peace be upon him; the martyr Haytham [name indistinct] group of the Islamic Resistance at 1405 yesterday carried out a daring and swift attack against a Zionist patrol near the Bayt Lif position, killing or wounding a number of people. At 1500, the enemy helicopters flew over the scene of the operation. The outskirts of Kafra and Yatar came under violent 155-mm enemy artillery fire from the town of Bayt Lif and the Blat and Yarin positions. The Islamic Resistance returned the fire using the appropriate weapons.

The Islamic Resistance pledged the greatest martyr, Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn, may God's peace be upon him; the leader of the Islamic nation al-Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i, may God protect him; and all martyrs of Islam to continue the jihad until full liberation.

Raid on Hizballah Position

NC2006211993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters raided a Hizballah position in south Lebanon hours after Katyushas were fired on northern Israel. There are no reports of casualties as a result of the raid.

According to a Lebanese security source, two helicopters fired four air-to-ground missiles at two houses in Jibal al-Butm that is directly opposite the central sector of the security strip. The two vacant houses were directly hit and were burned.

According to Hizballah, one of the party's ambulance workers was slightly burned and evacuated to the hospital while helping fight the fire.

AFP reported that the fighters of the Islamic resistance of Hizballah fired on the two helicopters but did not hit him.

UN Soldier Injured in Clash

TA2106094293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] A Fijian UN soldier was injured and another was kidnapped in a clash between a UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] unit and Hizballah men in south Lebanon last night. UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel reports that UN soldiers inspected a Hizballah truck at a checkpoint last night and found eight katyusha rockets in it. The UN soldiers detained the terrorists, but one of them managed to escape and returned with some 60 Hizballah men. The terrorists opened fire at the UN troops, wounded one of them, and kidnapped the commander of the force. He was released this morning following negotiations between UNIFIL and Hizballah representatives, but the rockets remained in the terrorists' possession.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that last night, terrorists attacked an SLA [South Lebanese Army] patrol with RPG [rocket-propelled grenades] and mortar shells. No one was hurt.

Army Intervenes in Hizballah-Amal Clash, Arrests 13

NC1706182993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Army Command has issued strict orders to prevent any incidents that cause wrangling and disputes arising from placards and photographs being hung and graffiti being drawn that disturb the peace, especially during festive occasions.

A security source said a squabble took place between Hizballah and Amal Movement personnel in Ma'rakah in Tyre last night because placards marked 'Ashura' [Islamic religious anniversary]. Stones were thrown and shooting occurred.

A Lebanese Army unit intervened, arrested 13 men, and instituted patrols to arrest Mustafa Kamal Talib, who fired the shots.

Further Reportage on Fatah Assassination Attempt

NC1806150793 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, June 18 (AFP)—The PLO on Friday [18 June] blamed the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of dissident Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] for an assassination attempt in a Palestinian refugee camp of southern Lebanon.

A bomb killed the woman assailant and seriously wounded her target, 'Ali Iskandar, an officer with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, another Fatah official said.

Sultan Abu-al-Aynayn told AFP that the attack also seriously wounded Iskandar's wife, son and daughter. But he denied earlier reports that Iskandar and his wife were killed.

The bomb was concealed in a biscuit box, he said. It exploded when the assailant recruited by the FRC, Fayizah Yusuf, opened the box in Iskandar's home in the refugee camp of al-Rashidiyah near the port city of Tyre.

The FRC office in Beirut refused to comment on the charges.

In a settling of scores between long-time foes Fatah and the FRC, which opposes the Middle East peace talks, more than 35 people have been killed over the last two years.

Hizballah Commentary Disputes U.S. Arbiter Role

NC1906085993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Station commentary: " 'Ashura': A Return to the Origins of Revolution"]

[Text] When we say that those who have such historical anniversaries as Karbala' [early Muslim battle] and 'Ashura' [10th of Muharram, anniversary of Imam al-Husayni's death at the hands of the Umayyads] never suffer defeat, we are not exaggerating. Victory is theirs in the end, even if they lose one or two rounds. The late Imam Khomeyni was not exaggerating when he announced: Muharram is the month of the victory of blood over the sword. He also said: All we possess comes from 'Ashura'.

Yes indeed, we very much need this undying, inexhaustible spiritual sustenance. Those who drink from it never thirst again. Karbala' does not belong to one particular sect or religious school. It belongs to all those who seek freedom and the resistance fighters who reject humiliating choices.

Hence, this is a call to all Arabs, Muslims, and all the oppressed of the world to invoke the 'Ashura' spirit in the battle. It is a battle that seeks to resist the Archsatan's attempt to install himself as leader of the world and custodian of the nations. No one on this earth should ask Satan to arbitrate disputes. Nevertheless, we see all parties seeking the pleasure of this Archsatan who wreaks injustice and spreads corruption in the world. They justify their action by saying that Washington has been granted world leadership after its peers collapsed and it became impossible to defy it or resist its wishes.

Although everyone rejects the values and standards that the United States seeks to impose on the world, everyone adheres to these standards on the grounds that they are faits accomplis and that it is force which abolishes some values and upholds others.

The United States is the master whose wishes cannot be defied even when these wishes are against us. Mu'awiyah [fifth Muslim caliph and first of the Umayyad rulers] came to Iraq after concluding a truce with Imam al-Hasan [son of Mu'awiyah's opponent 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib, the fourth caliph], may God's peace be with him. Mu'awiyah told the people: I did not fight you to make you pray and fast, for you already perform these rites. I fought you to rule over you.

Washington's current actions speak thus: I am not traversing the oceans and seas to defend democracy and human rights and consolidate international peace and security. I am mobilizing these armies in order to influence international politics and control resources.

If this is not true, who is it that authorized Washington to carry out this historic, humanitarian mission, risking its troops' lives and equipment in remote areas? Is it its bloody history, founded on the killing of the native Indians, the land's original inhabitants, or the oppression of colored peoples, particularly blacks? Since when did Washington possess objective criteria on the Arab-Israeli conflict, to become an arbiter and an authority on this issue? Since when did Washington possess objective and logical views on various crises so that one may count on it to solve them?

The end of the Cold War and the struggle between the two superpowers does not mean that Washington has become impartial. Indeed, it is an omen that its bias will now be buttressed by a force free from the checks and balances that formerly inhibited its muscle-flexing.

The idealistic ideas being proposed to solve conflicts and defend human rights are a ploy to abort the quest for national liberation and justify continued direct intervention.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher claims that the countries most inimical to human rights are frantically trying to acquire nuclear weapons. This statement condemns Washington itself because it is the first power in the world which sought and acquired nuclear power.

Resisting the U.S. desire to dominate the world is more urgent now than before. This adolescent country, so bewitched with its own power, is the greatest threat to world security, peace, and stability. The U.S. imperialist establishment has a constant hunger to enhance its power. It is necessary to challenge this adolescent power in order to inhibit its dreams and ambitions. Will the world realize this fact? Will the oppressed nations set a new course for their aspirations? Will all reasonable people join this humanitarian mission to save history, save the present, and the future?

Al-Hariri Leaves for Talks in Damascus 20 Jun

NC2006183293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus at 1730 today aboard his private plane for talks with Syrian officials on new developments at the local and foreign levels.

Paris Mayor Chirac Departs Beirut 17 Jun

NC1806063793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Today's event in Beirut surely is Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac's meetings with Lebanese officials and the accord signed between the Paris and Beirut municipalities. Chirac arrived in Lebanon yesterday evening and left at 1800 today. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, [Telecommunications] Minister Muhammad Ghaziri, French Ambassador Michel Chatelais, and the French Embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar': First Week of Talks Yields No Progress

JN1806211993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has declared that the first week of the 10th round of the peace talks in Washington has ended without any progress. In a statement to Radio L'Orient tonight, al-Shar' said the Israeli side has so far not made a final decision on the substantial point in the Syrian paper concerning withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He said as long as the Israeli side is unable to decide on the issue of full withdrawal, we do not expect substantial progress at this round.

Al-Shar' denied reports published by some Israeli papers that Syria does not object to a limited and temporary Israeli military presence on the Golan Heights. He said this is untrue. He said Syria objects to any security arrangements contravening full Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights. He affirmed that no final discussions can be held on security arrangements unless there is a commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Al-Shar' added that the issue of security arrangements must be within the framework of the entire peace process; that is, the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said the core of these two resolutions is withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Shar' explained: We do not agree with the American viewpoint to the effect that mere continuation of the talks and moving from one round to another is in itself a kind of progress. He affirmed that progress must be tangible and real, and that unless there is a real implementation of resolutions 242 and 338, we will not consider that there is any progress. He said the issue of withdrawal is at the heart of the U.S., Syrian, and international conception of real progress on a certain track.

The minister said that during their recent meeting in Vienna, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher affirmed to him that the United States is interested in the success of the peace process and that it is eager to play the role of a full partner to help accomplish this process.

Al-Shar' said the U.S. role is now being put to the test as far as the parties involved are concerned, especially Syria, which wants to make sure that the U.S. partner adheres to the U.S. initiative, the terms of reference of the peace process, and the basis on which it is built; that is, the implementation of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Al-Shar' hoped this and subsequent rounds of peace talks will prove that the United States has played a fair, just role to implement UN Security Council resolutions. He said: We are expecting the current U.S. Administration to abide by the previous administration's commitments toward the bases of the peace process, the terms of reference, and the letters and assurances that the Bush administration had exchanged with the concerned parties.

Replying to a question, the minister said it is Israel's occupation of parts of southern Lebanon that destabilizes Israel's security. He said: If Israel withdraws from all Lebanese territories, according to Resolution 425, Israel's security pretext will be spontaneously removed.

Replying to another question, al-Shar' affirmed that Syria is concerned about the unity and safety of Iraqi territory. He said: We in Syria care for the unity of Iraqi territory and people.

On the Vienna human rights conference, al-Shar' said the Western states' interest in this conference stems from the desire by some big powers to use the human rights weapon in order to create an immense political change in the world and secure Western interests in the future.

With regard to the Arab interest in the Vienna conference, the minister said: This is a natural interest because the Arabs have been subjected to serious violations of their rights at the hands of the Israelis for several decades while the West stood idly by. The Arabs have the right to say: Why does the world not move to end the injustice being done to the Arabs in the occupied territories?

Al-Shar' added that the developing states are also interested in the human rights conference because they are aware of the real intentions behind raising the human rights slogan. This slogan is used primarily against these states.

Al-Shar' also said: I will give an example pertaining to us in Syria. All Syrian citizens, including Jews, are free to travel. The Syrian Jews, just like other Syrian citizens, enjoy freedom of travel and can return home whenever they please. If a routine delay occurs, Israel will exploit this, and its friends in the Congress become so interested that they send letters to us, signed by scores of them, describing this delay as human rights violation. Meanwhile, these Congressional friends do not pay the least attention to the Israeli practices against the Arab citizens under occupation. Moreover, they do not sign any letter addressed to Israel regarding the Palestinians who were deported by Israel.

Al-Shar' added: All this confirms that the West uses double standards on human rights and other issues. Therefore, we cannot make sure that the Western stand at this conference really aims to end the injustice done to people everywhere and at all times. He said: We have correctly attacked what colonialism left behind in the Arab and developing states as well as the current double standards. We also said that human rights should be safeguarded and honored. Those who raise the human rights slogan and try to use it in the service of political purposes in order to achieve their own interests are the ones who violate the basic rights of peoples and individuals.

U.S., Israeli Roles in Peace Negotiations Viewed

U.S. Pressure on Israel Urged

JN1706151493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli side to the negotiations with Syria has again raised the issue of security and, with premeditation, skirted the basis of the peace process and the issues of land and withdrawal. The Israeli side deliberately ignored the fact that only peace provides security to everyone, not the Israelis' claim relating to secure borders—a theory which has been proven wrong and false by realities.

After it wasted enough time throughout the past nine rounds, the Israeli delegation now seems to be convinced about the need to discuss the fifth article of the Syrian document which deals with the issue of withdrawal, after acknowledging that it is not possible to discuss security details before reaching an agreement on substantive issues, including land and withdrawal issues.

However, even when the Syrian and Israeli delegation return this evening to discuss the fifth article, the obstacles to any progress put in place by the Israelis will remain, because Israeli Prime Minister Rabin defined a limit that cannot be surpassed when he announced that Israel will not fully withdraw from the Golan.

The Israeli Government is trying to convince the world community, led by the U.S. cosponsor of the peace process, that it is concerned about peace and is seeking to achieve this peace. At the same time, however, the Israeli Government is maneuvering and procrastinating inside the negotiation rooms. On the ground, it is continuing its terrorist and aggressive practices inside the occupied Arab territories and in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, Israeli Government officials continue to make statements which we can only say do not serve the peace process.

All Israel's actions confirm, without a doubt, that the Israeli side's desire for peace is lost. These actions also confirm that Israel participated in the Madrid conference and the following Washington talks in order to evade international pressure and to avoid exposure as a country that is hostile to peace and that rejects this peace.

Indeed, after 20 months of futile talks, Israel proved its disinterest in peace. It did not launch an intitiative to achieve peace when it announced its willingness to withdraw from some occupied Arab territories. Instead, it placed obstacles to this peace. This is especially true because peace cannot be achieved in the region without a full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, something that is known well by Israeli leaders. When Yitzhaq Rabin announces his willingness to withdraw within the Golan and not from the Golan, he is very well aware that this proposal is rejected, in part and parcel, by Syria, which repeatedly emphasized it will not relinquish one iota of Golan soil. By doing so, Rabin is not only placing obstacles to peace, but he is slipping away from the terms of reference of the peace process based on implementing UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 338, and 425, and the exchange of land for peace.

Hence, when the rulers of Israel precede any possible outcome in the Washington talks with a definition of a limit for the overall peace process that is not in line with and even contradicts the terms of reference of this process, they are confirming that Israel is not seeking to achieve peace but to torpedo the entire peace process.

This Israeli stand should be handled by the U.S. cosponsor which took upon itself the role of a full partner in the peace process. The role of a full partner, as we and the world community understand, entails correcting what is wrong, pushing the peace process forward, putting matters back on track, and exerting pressure on the party that violates the bases of the Madrid conference and the Washington talks.

The entire world community, led by Washington, is now aware of the true state of affairs pertaining to the peace talks. It is well aware of the party that launched effective intitiatives to achieve peace and the party that continues to circumvent the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. If the role of a full partner is not translated into pressure, then we do not think that the current 10th round or the following rounds will achieve any progress. This means that the overall peace process depends on a substantial change in the Israeli stand that harmonizes with the terms of reference of this process and on a more serious and effective U.S. role.

Lack of Progress Blamed on U.S.

JN1906115493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the outcome of the first week's sessions of the 10th round of Middle East peace talks. TISHRIN asserts that the results of the first week were not encouraging at all, and that the only result was the exchange of opposing stands of the Arab and Israeli delegations. The head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon has even admitted there was a retreat and claimed that the talks do not include a discussion of Resolution 425, which stipulates immediate Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

TISHRIN also asserts that major differences emerged in the Palestinian track because Israel rejected Palestinian Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and the settlements.

The paper adds: Negotiations on the Syrian track were marked by inaction. Discussion continued to revolve around clause five in the Syrian document which concerns complete Israeli withdrawal. Despite this, Israel attempted to evade discussing this clause under the pretext of security and security arrangements without linking them to the land, which is a security issue, and to Israeli withdrawal from that land; namely, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, South Lebanon, and Jerusalem. With the continuation of occupation, any discussion of security plans or security arrangements is meaningless. It was clear that by talking about security, Israel was trying to evade the substantial issues in the peace process. These attempts were rejected in part and parcel by the Syrian delegation out of its great desire to activate the peace talks, and not push them into discussing premature details which would waste time and effort.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: In summary, Israel is still adopting the same positions. If it continues to stick to these positions in future sessions, the 10th round will not yield satisfactory results and will end up like the previous nine rounds, disappointing. Israel will also be contradicting the requirements and conditions needed to boost the settlement process. This must prompt the U.S. sponsor to rush to the rescue of the 10th round of talks and assume the full partner role in a practical and serious manner in order to establish the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH discusses Israel's anti-peace policy and threats against Arab security. The paper says: Since the start of the Madrid Conference on 30 October 1991, Israel has become more hostile to peace and more threatening to the Arabs' security. Rabin's current government is even considered more bloodthirsty in view of the daily murders, massacres, and human rights violations it has committed. This justifies to the Arabs and the world the conviction they are developing that Rabin's government has not abandoned the scheme of expansion in Arab lands and that its participation in the various rounds of peace talks was only an attempt at deception and to avoid the world community's blame.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The first week of the 10th round of talks ended yesterday without any progress worth mentioning because the Israeli delegation is not authorized to give the necessary response on complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Hence, couldn't one say that Israel has not genuinely attended the 10th round of talks?

AL-THAWRAH notes the statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the eve of the 10th round in which he said that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and is not subject to negotiations and that there will be no complete withdrawal from the occupied territories. The paper says: With these hostile and provocative statements, Rabin wants to get the maximum amount of Israeli conditions at the expense of the Arab rights. This is reflected on the conduct of the Israeli negotiator, who objects to every Arab document and demands clarifications and amendments to its clauses, in an attempt to reach these conditions that fall within Israel's military, political, and economic objectives.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: This fact, which we Arabs and the world know, and which Washington also knows, prompts us to say that it is the fault of the absent U.S. sponsorship of the talks. Israel's intransigent positions would not have continued without the continued U.S. financial, military, and political support to Israel. That support has caused that major fault in the progress of talks. It is also the reason why hopes for reaching a just peace in the region are diminishing. Washington has allowed Israel, which is armed to the teeth and protected by the U.S. veto, to exercise its aggression and coercion against the Arabs, to scoff the resolutions of international legitimacy, and to threaten peace and security in the region at the expense of the U.S. pledges and principles.

Talks Seen as 'Vicious Circle'

JN1706095093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace Talks and the Renewed Israeli Obstacles", AL-BA'TH says: With the beginning of the 10th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington, these talks have entered their 20th month without reaching any worthwhile progress toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Such peace was the basis and objective of the peace process.

It is premature to judge the fate of the 10th round and compare it with the previous nine futile rounds. However, amid the atmosphere prevailing the 10th round, there is much doubt about the possibility of advancing the peace process and removing it from its vicious circle. Israel created this vicious circle from the outset by submerging the peace talks in useless discussions and verbal arguments and attempting to make quick gains, thus emphasizing Israel's blind adherence to blackmail.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel's obstruction of the peace process has continued for the past 20 months, and has increased with the convening of the 10th round, after the Rabin government has revealed its hostility toward peace and its false concern for the peace process. Prior to the 10th round, Rabin made statements rejecting total withdrawal from the occupied Golan. This dealt a backbreaking blow to this round and to the entire peace process. This hostile Israeli confrontation of the peace process was intensified by Rabin's subsequent statements on Israel's safe and secure borders. These statements confirm that any talk about an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will be in vain.

AL-BA'TH continues: The Arabs cannot relinquish their territories and rights in return for Israeli satisfaction and smiles. The Arabs accepted the peace process only because it was based on the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of UN resolutions. The attempts by the Israeli rulers to undermine these bases not only empty the peace process of its substance but also constitute a new defiance of the international community and legitimacy as well as the cosponsors of the peace process. These cosponsors, particularly the United States, sought to follow up and continue this process by holding continuous rounds.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Therefore, the 10th round will be another test of U.S. credibility regarding the peace process, which it has led from the outset. The fate of this process will be determined in light of the U.S. handling of it.

Under the headline "Signs of Frustration", AL-THAWRAH comments: It is noticed that with the start of each round of peace talks, Israel escalates repression and terrorism in the occupied territories and intensifies its military attacks on southern Lebanon. This is part of an exposed policy designed to evoke feelings of nostalgia and frustration and create a tense and volatile atmosphere, thus preventing an appropriate objective atmosphere to hold serious and fruitful talks. Moreover, this Israeli policy cannot allow the negotiators to circumvent failure.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Before this round, Israel escalated repression, intensified the searches and arrests, and announced through Rabin himself that it will not make any new move toward the Palestinians, nor will it accept full withdrawal from the occupied Golan. Israel thus proves for the thousandth time that it is opposed to peace and that it will not hesitate to fabricate anything that will not only foil the 10th round but also torpedo the entire peace process if possible.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Without doubt, Israel's practices and behavior clearly show that it deals with the peace issue with obvious disregard and disdain, and that it does not wish to yield to the will of peace or change its provocative and intransigent positions, regardless of the consequences of this dangerous policy.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Naturally, it is now up to the United States and its readiness to exert pressures in order to convince the Rabin government to yield to the peace requirements, particularly accepting the principle of total withdrawal and recognizing the Palestinain people's legitimate rights. No doubt, the U.S. Administration knows better than others that this round will not achieve any breakthrough if the Israeli position remains unchanged. It is also fully aware that peace cannot be achieved unless the Arabs regain all their territories and rights.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

Supports New Cabinet

LD1906121993 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Kabul, June 19, IRNA—Tehran is happy that the new Afghan Cabinet has officially started its work, visiting Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, told Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar here Friday. The two also discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as Tehran- Kabul relations.

Borujerdi said, "Iran hopes that with the beginning of the work of the new Cabinet, a lasting peace and tranquility would be established throughout Afghanistan and that the government, with the people's backing, would be able to start the reconstruction of the war-torn country." Stressing that Iran has proved through its efforts that it is interested in restoring stability and peace to Afghanistan, he said Tehran will continue its efforts as much as possible.

Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] was sworn in on Thursday as the first Afghan prime minister since the guerrillas took power more than a year ago. He said his 12 Cabinet ministers will start their work on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Hezb-e Wahdat-Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], in a statement Friday, announced its support to the new Cabinet.

Received by Rabbani

LD1906171193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Mr.['Ala'eddin] Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia-Pacific Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the president's Golkhana Palace this afternoon. At this meeting talks were held on consolidating friendly relations, goodwill, and cooperation between the two countries and other subjects of mutual interest.

Reconstruction Discussed

LD2006115593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. ['Ala'eddin] Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, who is currently in Kabul, met and conferred with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani this morning.

According to our reporter, during the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Najafi, our country's ambassador, Mr. Rabbani praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to solve the problems of Afghanistan, and expressed the hope that Afghanistan will continue to benefit from the cooperation of neighboring countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, during its period of reconstruction.

For his part, Mr. Borujerdi expressed pleasure that the new Afghan cabinet has begun work. He said Iran has shown its goodwill through its efforts to establish a lasting peace in Iran, and that it will continue its assistance, within the limit of its capabilities, during Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Discusses Assistance With Arsala

LD2006155593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today met in his office Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia- Pacific affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Mohayoddin Najafi, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul; and members of the Iranian delegation. The meeting was also attended by Hamid Karzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Amin Arsala expressed appreciation for the Iranian people's and (?government's) support for Afghanistan. He expressed hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will extend assistance to the Islamic State and people of Afghanistan in eliminating difficulties stemming from the war and reviving and promoting socio-economic development.

Mr. Borujerdi assured the foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on his government's readiness to extend disinterested assistance to Afghanistan in various fields.

Both sides held a detailed discussion on various areas of economic, commercial, cultural, and technical cooperation as well as issues regarding [word indistinct] development in the region.

According to another report, esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, had a courtesy meeting this afternoon in his office with Mr. Amir Osman, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul. The meeting discussed subjects of mutual interest between the two countries and further consolidation and broadening of economic and commercial relations.

Sayyaf Views Foreign Interference, Future Peace

LD2006202493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Interview with Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Union of Afghanistan, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Esteemed Ostad Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, esteemed leader of Jihad, please tell us about the military and political situation in our country, in particular about Kabul city. Will there be the hope of peace for Kabul citizens, in the future?

[Sayyaf] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The past thirteen months were a bitter juncture in time that our compatriots left behind. All of us were witness to heart rendering conditions and tragic scenarios that were not acceptable to any faithful person of this country and neither did they expect it, because Jihad was aimed at eliminating intimidation and throwing away barbarism and the provision of a tranquil and humane atmosphere in the embrace of Islam. [passage omitted]

However what happened, as I said before, was against all the expectations, aims, and aspirations of Jihad and against the expectation of all those who were waiting for the victory of Jihad and the Mojahedin. There is no doubt that mistakes were made, however, to a maximum extent the fundamental reason for all these problems was hidden in the direct and indirect interference of the enemies of Islam and the enemies of Jihad and the Mojahedin.

We can say with confidence that there were many hands at work to prevent the establishment of an Islamic order in Afghanistan. Many sides, including at government levels, were trying, on the one hand to distort the direction of Jihad, and on the other hand not to let the Mojahedin succeed in implementing their Islamic, Shari'i, and humane aims in Islamic Afghan society.

It was therefore, as a result of a series of mistakes on the one hand, and on the other hand as a result of interference by the enemies, Kabul city was dragged into fire and blood. [passage omitted]

People thought to a great extent that the agreements in Islamabad and Jalalabad would remain only as a piece of paper. In the light of experiences that they had from many agreements, they were very hopeful that the implementation of these agreements would rescue the people from sorrows and problems.

However, God's kindness was far more and far greater than to let the innocent people suffer further. It was therefore, that against the expectation of our enemies and against the forecast of the country's enemies and enemies of Islam, these people who fought against each other for a full year, finally through the necessity of faith, the necessity of belief, and the necessity of the homeland and other humane necessities, made them forget everything and join hands and think about this noble aim as to how they could rescue our persecuted people from the embrace of pains and suffering. [passage omitted]

They are determined to follow the results of their work and will not let the hopes and expectations of our compatriots turn into despair. On the other hand my serious proposal, that possibly all our compatriots will confirm with me, on various aspects of the matter, is that for the sake of God, for the sake of mercy on their persecuted nation, for the sake of their destroyed and war-torn country, not to allow further war and internal clashes. Let the people sigh in relief after 14 or 15 years of war. [passage omitted]

This necessity makes it inevitable that the war situation in the country should end. Heavy weapons should be brought under control and the tools of war and destruction should be brought under supervision. In this regard every effort should be made at state level, at government level, at Jihad party levels and groups, and at the level of all Afghan people so they do not allow internal war any more. [passage omitted]

Missiles Fired at Kabul; UK Embassy Damaged

LD2006160793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Two of our compatriots were injured today when six missiles were fired at Kabul city. A responsible security source reported to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that these missiles were fired from the southwestern direction and hit the 2nd, 4th, and 11th wards of the city. As a result of the landing of today's missiles one house was demolished in the 11th ward. The security source also said that one of these missiles hit the British Embassy in Kabul and caused some damage.

President Meets Members of Peace Delegation

LD1906200493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Borhannodin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at Golkhana Palace with members of the peace delegation led by esteemed Abdorrub Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] of Afghanistan. At this meeting, talks were held about the creation of a better atmosphere for work and understanding and for the restoration of peace and durable security as well as an end to fighting and bloodshed in the country.

Hezb-e Eslami, Government Exchange 25 POW's

LD1906163693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Twenty five POW's who had been taken prisoner by the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and the forces of the Islamic State were exchanged recently. These captives were exchanged in the Pol-e Charkhi area in the presence of delegations from both sides.

Hekmatyar Holds Commission Meeting Outside Kabul

BK1906113493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 19 Jun 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Charasiab, Afghanistan, June 19 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar held a special commission meeting outside Kabul Saturday, scotching rumours that he would convene a cabinet meeting in the capital.

Hekmatyar, who for security reasons was inaugurated two days ago in a secret ceremony to the west of Kabul, sent his newly appointed administrative officer to visit the prime minister's office in the capital.

Meanwhile, he chaired a meeting of the Interior Ministry Commission at his Charasiab headquarters 25 kilometres (15 miles) to the southeast.

"The prime minister's [PM] administrative officer Qodboddin Hilal was in Kabul today, but no final decision has yet been reached when the PM himself will go," said Abdol Sabur, Hekmatyar's Charasiab secretary.

Tanks were in evidence but security was relaxed at Charasiab, where there was also a meeting of delegations from two warring factions—the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] allies of Hekmatyar, and their arch-enemy Ittihad-e Eslami [Islamic Union Party], led by Rasul Sayyaf who hosted the premier's inauguration ceremony at his Paghman headquarters.

"The prime minister wanted them to come here for their first peace talks," Sabur said.

It is not clear when Hekmatyar will come to Kabul in person, but of paramount concern is security in the capital, where Hekmatyar is understood to be wary of the intentions of former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and the northern forces of Uzbek militia boss, General Abdur Rashid Dostam.

Hussein Faal, head of the Press Department at the Prime Minister's Palace said "a commission has been established to decide when the Prime Minister will come to Kabul for the first cabinet meeting there. This commission is checking security matters in the capital, and after its report, in a few days time, the cabinet should meet," Faal said.

Political Struggle Must Replace Missile War

LD1706222093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Commentary by unidentified BIA commentator]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots: After one month of war the Defense Ministry Commission led by the president of Afghanistan, began its work. In connection with this matter a political commentator of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] writes:

Under the Jalalabad agreements the Ministries of Defense and Home Affairs are to be run by commissions comprised of members from all Jihad organizations for a two-month period. At the head of the Defense Ministry Council is the esteemed president, at the head of the Home Affairs Ministry is the esteemed prime minister. One task of these commissions is to begin the process of collecting heavy weapons from all sides and maintain the cease-fire and consolidation of security in Kabul.

At a first meeting of the commission in which members of all organizations took part, except that of Mawlawi Mohammad Yunis Khales, it was agreed that the cease-fire should be observed and heavy weapons be collected. It was agreed that a specific method for the collection of heavy weapons be adopted and implemented.

In the opinion of the BIA political observer it seems that members of the Defense Ministry Commission had similar views in the first meeting. No difference has been detected in the talks agreed upon. All commission members, who are members of different organizations, agree that it is no longer necessary for every party or organization to have an independent and separate army. They should join hands in forming a regular Islamic Army. However, commission members agree a month is not sufficient for carrying the important task that is before the commission. Because after the completion of two months, representatives of commanders of the country's provinces should elect the ministers of defense and home affairs.

It is necessary therefore, that the commission should continue its work without delay and try, instead of wasting time on repeated meetings and protocols, to pay attention to the practical side of the work and try to accomplish the tasks before them. Because at present heavy weapons belonging to several parties not only threaten Kabul city, but every day dozens of our Muslim and innocent compatriots are martyred and heavy material loss is inflicted as a result of the impact of missiles that are being fired at Kabul city's residential areas.

In this manner, while the ministers of defense and home affairs do not exist, it is the responsibility of every member of the commissions to guarantee tranquility, security, and safety of life to Kabul citizens. This guarantee can only be achieved through practical actions. Because the people are weary of military confrontation between the sides and all sides have realized that war and resorting to weapons is not only not the way to a solution, but it brings [words indistinct] under question in people's minds. It is now necessary that, instead of war with missiles and artillery, confrontation should go to the field of political struggle. It is in this field that one could achieve self-political aims as well as rallying the people around.

India

BJP Demand for Rao Resignation, Reaction Reported

Resolution Adopted

BK1706154893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The national executive of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] now meeting at Sankalpnagar in Bangalore has adopted a resolution demanding immediate resignation of the prime minister following the allegation of Harshad Mehta. The outgoing president of the party, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said there should be an impartial inquiry into the allegation.

Mehta Charges 'Politically Motivated'

BK1706161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party has charged Harshad Mehta with making politically motivated allegations to scuttle the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probe in the security scam. In a resolution passed in the capital this evening, the committee said Mehta has made these allegations at a time when it is poised to conclude its task. The resolution noted that it was at the initiative of the prime minister that parliament constituted the JPC to go into all aspects of the security scam in which Mehta is the prime accused. Reposing full confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, the resolution said the party and the government stand united to combat all sinister attempts to blackmail and destabilize the government through wild, baseless, and vicious allegations.

BJP on National Debt, Mehta

BK1906091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The National Council of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has once again urged the Government to hold elections to the four formally BJP-ruled states where the state governments were dismissed following the Ayodhya incidents. In the political resolution adopted at the national convention in Bangalore, the party strongly criticized the stand taken by the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in West Bengal vis-a-vis the BJP. The political resolution expressing deep concern over the national debt says that the debt has nearly doubled in the last two years.

The BJP has denied that it released copies of Harshad Mehta's affidavit [alleging a 10-million-rupee pay-off to Prime Minister Rao] in Bangalore within 15 minutes of its distribution in Bombay last Wednesday. Reacting to the charges made by Congress-I spokesman Mr. V.N. Gadgil, the party general secretary, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, told newspersons in Bangalore today that the copies of the gist of the affidavit were released at the venue of the National Council meeting around 1900.

Meanwhile, the senior party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that the new president of the party, Mr. L.K. Advani, can continue to be the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He was speaking to newspersons in Bangalore today. He reiterated his demand that contributions to political parties should be made in checks. He said this would ensure preventing influence of black money in the elections.

Mr. Vajpayee urged the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to launch a vigorous campaign the world over to counter the malicious disinformation by Pakistan against India. He charged that the so- called human rights violation cases in some parts of India is the handiwork of Pakistan. Referring to the attitude of the Pakistani delegation at Vienna, Mr. Vajpayee regretted that this has once again showed that whether in power or not, the Pakistani leaders are not interested in improving their country's relations with India.

BJP Calls For Government Resignation

BK1906162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has alleged that the government has failed in all fronts. The draft political resolution at its three-day national session in Bangalore says that the government should resign immediately in view of the latest allegations by Harshad Mehta. The resolution said time and again courts have struck down various acts of government from the dismissal of the BJP-ruled governments in four states to banning of national organizations like the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewvak Sangh] on flimsy grounds. The resolution said elections or no elections, the BJP would proceed with the task of educating the people, not only about the ruling party's acts of commission and omission but also about the BJP's agenda on national issues.

Moving the political resolution, the former Rajasthan chief minister, Mr. Bairao Singh Shekawat, called for an early Supreme Court decision on the dismissal of the four BJP-ruled state governments. He said this was necessary for the development and welfare of the people in these states.

Rao: BJP Seeks To Topple Government

BK1906161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister has said the current campaign of calumny against him is part of the old methodology to topple Congress-I governments. Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I party in parliament in New Delhi today, he said this strategy has been used by a party that had employed religion as a political tool. Narasimha Rao said his integrity is being attacked after 55 years of public life. He said the party and he will fight it out. Rao said those who leveled charges against him had changed the signboards overnight.

Lashing out at the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the prime minister said this party went to the streets and demolished the Babri Masjid [mosque] and tarnished the secular face, while the talks were still on to resolve the issue. He said the BJP did not get any political mileage out of its action; rather, it is seen as a Hindu terrorist act throughout the world. He said the allegations against him have been made to scuttle the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probe, but it cannot be allowed to be detracted under any circumstances. He urged the party to utilize it as an opportunity to rebound.

Later, the party unanimously passed the resolution expressing full faith in the leadership of the prime minister. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan. The resolution says it is a bizarre spectacle where an alleged swindler is trying to hold the entire political system to ransom and to his outrageous plan of blackmail. It said the prime suspect in the case of unprecedented financial fraud in banks and lakhs of small investors is being helped in his criminal acts with slander based on concocted and fabricated lies. The resolution said Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister is an attempt to deflect public opinion from the crime and weaken the efforts of the investigating agencies. It cautioned the people that well-organized forces are guiding him and will in their pursuit of nefarious objectives do the worst to exploit any forums, including courts of law.

Later, briefing newsmen, the party leader, Mr. Vidhya Charan Shukla, said the party has taken the allegations as a political onslaught on the Congress-I leadership and it will meet it politically. It described Mehta's claim as nothing but a conspiracy to hurt the image of the party and distract the country from the rails of economic recovery.

When asked if the prime minister will appear before the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee], Mr. Shukla said the decision has to be taken by the JPC itself. But, he felt, it does not fall within the purview of the JPC because the alleged incident relates to a period before the timeframe provided to the committee.

The government has categorically denied that the prime minister had a meeting with the stock broker, Harshad Mehta, on 4 November 1991 at his Race Course residence. The official spokesman today said the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, was not present at his residence at 1045 on that day as alleged in his affidavit by Harshad Mehta. Giving the resume of the engagements of Mr. Narasimha Rao on that day, the official spokesman said the prime minister left for a breakfast meeting with the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] at 0915. From there, Mr. Rao went to his South Block office where he stayed till 1315. He said no visitor is allowed into the prime minister's drawing room when he is not present there. The spokesman reiterated that the Government does not like to conceal or hide anything relating to this allegation. The spokesman also explained that all visitors, including parliament members, have to go though normal screening at the prime minister's residence. He said every article that enters the prime minister's house is subjected to scrutiny and checks.

Meanwhile, several Congress-I members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing the security scam today demanded that the breach of privilege proceedings should be initiated against Harshad Mehta for leveling charges against committee members.

Addressing a delegation of the All India Mahila [Women] Congress at his residence this evening, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said the present attempt by disruptive forces is not only to defame him, but also to blemish the Congress-I's image which is the only party which has gbiven a stable government to the country. He emphatically stated that the Congress-I government at the Center will complete its full five-year term in spite of the hurdles posed by divisive forces.

Leaders Rally Behind Rao

BK1806034593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The Union Council of Ministers has reiterated its total faith and confidence in the leadership of the prime minister. It has committed itself to fight under his leadership the forces of destabilization. The meeting, which took place in New Delhi yesterday, termed Harshad Mehta's allegation against the prime minister as false and malicious and that the forces of disruption and disintegration are out to sabotage the process of economic recovery. Noting that the country has come out of its deepest crisis under the leadership of Mr. Rao, the council said the forces of disruption have chosen this moment to reverse the process of stabilization and consolidation.

Several state Congress-I committees and legislature parties have rallied behind the prime minister in view of the allegations by Harshad Mehta. The West Bengal Congress legislature party has called the allegation a conspiracy of mischievous forces intended to destabilize the country. Union Minister Mr. Vidhya Charan Shukla told newspersons that the allegation has come from a person who has lost legal battles.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Devi Lal of the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] has termed the allegation as the sinister conspiracy by an anti-national to destabilize the country. The Samajwadi Janata Party president, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has on the other hand said that the allegation indicates abetment of corruption by the Congress-I.

The Nagaland chief minister, Mr. S.C. Jamir, has called the allegation a motivated act in collusion with some political forces to destroy the Congress-I. The vice chairman of the Kissan [Farmers] Congress, Mr. Ramesh Sharma, has said that the allegation throws direct light on the conspiracy hatched by the foreign powers wanting to put obstacles in India's economic development. The Kerala pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Vaylar Ravi, described the allegation as a political plot to malign the prime minister. Meghalaya Chief Minister Mr. M.C. Marak has said the allegation is aimed at destabilizing the country. All India Congress-S Committee general secretary and a former MP, Mr. S.W. Dhave, has said in Nagpur that considering the background of Harshad Mehta it is difficult to believe his statement. In Bangalore, the Congress-I leader, Mr. A.K. Subbhaiya, has said that the allegation appeared to be fantastic nonsense. The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. K. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, has accused the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] of instigating Harshad Mehta to level unfounded charges against the prime minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and asserted that its plan to gain power through these dubious methods would not succeed. He was talking to the UNI after the CWC [Congress Working Committee] meeting yesterday.

Union ministers belonging to Uttar Pradesh say that the design of Harshad Mehta is only a thin veil of what they called a colossal conspiracy of political parties who have failed to achieve political aims. The signatories to the statement are Mrs. Sheila Kaul, Mr. Balram Singh Yadav, Mr. Salman Khurshid, and Mr. Ramlal Rahi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rakesh Mittal, son of the late Rajya Sabha MP, Satpal Mittal, has denied that Harshad Mehta paid one crore rupees to the prime minister. Mr. Mittal told PTI that Mehta's claim was a mere concoction of lies and a deep- rooted political conspiracy to destabilize the country.

MP's Express 'Full Faith' in Rao

BK1906094993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP] met in New Delhi today and expressed its full faith in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. In a resolution adopted unanimously, the party said the allegation of Harshad Mehta against the prime minister was a clear attempt to subvert the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probing the security scam and get the Lok Sabha dissolved. The CPP also resolved to fight the forces of destabilization.

The meeting was addressed by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and many other leaders. Almost all the members of parliament attended the meeting especially called to take stock of the situation arising out of Harshad Mehta's allegation against the prime minister. The three-page resolution was moved by the Rajya Sabha member, Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan. The pradesh [state] Congress-I presidents and leaders of the Congress-I legislature parties, which met in the capital yesterday, resolved to fight the forces of destabilization and also endorsed the CWC [Congress-I Working Committee] resolution reposing confidence in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao.

Rao: Government To Finish Full Term

BK2106093493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that the Congress-I government at the center will complete its full five-year term. Addressing a gathering at his residence in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the current campaign against him is nothing but an attempt to destabilize the nation's progress and economy. Describing Harshad Mehta's allegations as meaningless, Mr. Rao said he would come out clean of the acid test. The prime minister said the Congress-I has rebounded whenever such attempts were made in the past.

Referring to the government's achievements in the past two years, Mr. Rao said the panchayat raj [rural bodies administration] system introduced by the government will make democracy deep-rooted in the country. He said elections will be held at panchayat level and panchayat will be given more powers to sort out problems at their level.

The prime minister said his party will carry out its election promises in a phased manner to achieve the desired level as drafted by the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

The minister of state for mines, Mr. Balram Singh Yadav; the former chief minister of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Ram Lal; Mr. Mani Shanker Aiyer and Mr. Manthoo Singh, MP's; and former Rajya Sabha member Mr. Ranjit Singh were also present on the occasion.

Campaign Outlines Government's Achievements

BK2106041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The Narasimha Rao government completes two years in office today. To mark the occasion, the Congress-I high command has chalked out a week-long program, highlighting the achievements of the government. A party spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the campaign will also expose the forces which are trying to destabilize the government and its economic programs. He said this follows the Congress Working Committee decision to go to the people's court on the issue.

The spokesman said the Congress-I units will hold rallies and public meetings at the state and district levels today. These will be followed by seminars and discussions to project the party's stand on various issues, as also the progress made by the country in the past two years. The AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] is sending observers to all states to guide the local units in the campaign.

The Punjab Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee has organized several rallies and public meetings to mark the occasion. At all districts headquarters, functions are being held to highlight the achievements. In Arunachal Pradesh, the Pradesh Congress Committee has organized a seminar at Itanagar today to highlight the achievements of the Narasimha Rao government.

Commentary on Economic Successes of Government

BK2106043293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Commentary by D. Ravikant, special correspondent of THE ECONOMIC TIMES: "Toward a Buoyant Economy"]

[Text] The Indian economy is now poised for a big leap into the 21st century following structural reforms initiated by the Narasimha Rao government which completes two years in office today. Never in the recent past has a minority government, like the one headed by Mr. Rao, taken recourse to a host of far-reaching measures to give the economy the much required face-lift it needed so badly.

Inflation has been brought under complete control with the rate of inflation now hovering around 5.8 percent as against 17 percent when the Rao government took over on this day two years ago. The balance of payments position, which had reached a point of near collapse during 1991, has dramatically improved with foreign exchange reserves estimated at well over $7 billion. There has been a record procurement of food grains with wheat crossing the 122- lakh-ton mark, while rice has touched an all-time high of 108 lakh tons. More importantly, India's exports, which went into a tailspin after the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union, soared to a new high of $1.766 billion in April this year.

The central objective of the economic reforms introduced in 1991- 92 was premised on the underlying need for economic stabilization as well as structural reforms. This necessitated various corrections, such as reducing fiscal deficit of 8.4 percent to about 5 percent in order to control inflation and aligning the rupee realistically with other major currencies through a unified exchange rate regime. Further, the Rao government opened various sectors for foreign equity participation. In fact, the delicensing of industries has intensified competition and a certain dynamism has been imparted to the Indian industry. Even capital-intensive industries, such as power and telecommunications, are being opened up for foreign capital investment. Already the government has approved over 1,200 foreign equity proposals.

The reform package which aims at accentuating growth in the economy hinges on the performance of the export sector. The government has substantially deregulated various discretionary controls on the export and import of different items. Since India enjoys a distinct advantage in the export of agriculture-related items, the government has provided substantial relief to the farmers in the form of a fertilizer subsidy to the tune of about 700 crore rupees. Contrary to the recommendations of the Narasimhan Committee, the government has stepped up priority sector lending to help agriculture as a small-scale industry. In a nutshell, the Narasimha Rao government's achievements in the economy in the last two years are creditworthy and they mark a watershed in the independent India's economic policy regime.

Advani Succeeds Joshi as BJP President

BK1806075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. L.K. Advani has taken over as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. He assumed office for the third term from the outgoing president of the party, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, during the National Council session of the party at Bangalore this morning.

Delivering his presidential address, Mr. Advani said that if voted to power at the center, his party will change the face of the country in 10 years by improving infrastructural facilities like drinking water, power and transport. It will also integrate family planning with the literacy and other welfare programs. Alleging that the country's leadership has failed the people, Mr. Advani called for a new approach and self-discipline. Mr. Advani also dwelt on issues like construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya, economic liberalization, foreign relations, nuclear options, demographic invasion, election reforms and corruption in high places.

Senior Congress-I Leader Patil Quits Posts

BK2006045693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The former chief minister of Karnataka and senior Congress-I leader, Mr. Virendra Patil, has submitted his resignation from the membership of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I]. He told our Bangalore correspondent this morning that he has also submitted his resignation to the state executive committee and the state Election Commission.

Paper Supports Campaign Against Narmada Dam

BK2006104993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The SSP's Beneficiaries"]

[Text] One does not have to support all of Medha Patkar's economic and political ideas to recognise the importance of her campaign against the Sardar Sarovar Project [SSP]. If one thing is clear about the SSP it is that the Government of Gujarat was determined to push the pace of construction with or without providing fully or the resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons.

And the Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments were utterly lackadaisical about making provision for oustees on their side of the border. Had it not been for the Narmada Bachao Andolan's [NBA; Save Narmada Movement] determined opposition to the dam, the submergence of Manibeli and other villages would have been a fait accompli even before all the small farmers and poor tribals had received adequate compensation.

The NBA campaign, now at a decisive stage with Patkar's indefinite fast in Bombay, has won the support of scores of independent groups which are concerned about the repressive measures used to evict villagers from Manibeli, the focus of the agitation for several years and slated to be submerged when water impounded bv the dam rises during this monsoon. The agitation has also compelled the Maharashtra Chief Minister to intervene. He says it was at his instance that the extent of submergence this year was restricted so that rehabilitation measures could be completed first. At no stage have government officials or dam authorities been forthright about their intentions or the real situation in Manibeli.

Officials continue to deny that force was used to evict people while a three-man team sent there by the Bombay High Court confirms that a general atmosphere of terror prevails.

In an address last week, on the eighth day of her fast, Patkar said the struggle was not limited to the Narmada dam and R & R but was a " fight against injustice, money and power politics and for the issue of development for everybody". Many will regard this as an unacceptably radical programme. But even those who do not wish to draw any larger lessons from the Narmada experience will support the NBA's demand for a review of the SSP. The issue is not, as the pro-Narmada lobby poses it, the interests of a few displaced persons against that of thousands who will benefit from the SSP's irrigation and water schemes in several Gujarat districts. The issue is: who will really benefit from the SSP? As the independent Bradford Morse report for World Bank had shown, the SSP as it stands does not meet three fundamental objectives: its R & R [expansion unknown] provisions are grossly inadequate, its environmental impact is unknown and it is uncertain how much land will actually be irrigated or whether Kutch and Saurashtra will get the water they have been promised. To this day SSP authorities have not answered any one of these questions satisfactorily. Gujarat and the other states should not sit on their prestige. A project review is in the wider public interest.

Reportage on Recent Developments in Kashmir

Islamabad: 18 More Killed

BK1706145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another 18 people have been martyred in the massive military crackdown and clashes in the valley. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], Indian troops opened fire on a bus stand in Patan on Srinagar-Baramula Road, killing four and injuring seven waiting passengers. In (Nadihal), in Baramula, four mojahedin were martyred in a clash with Indian troops during siege and search operation.

Army Takes Steps To Seal Border

BK1806101293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The army has launched a series of measures to seal the border in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent infiltration and to cut off the incoming of arms and ammunition from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to the valley. According to PTI, a coordinating three-tier defense system has been organized for the purpose. Additional troops have been deployed to make it impossible for any illegal transborder movement. Special attention has been paid to cover tactical passage and rare areas to intercept armed militants. The installation of sophisticated electronic devices has also been done to prevent infiltration.

Pakistan Blamed for Killings

BK2006080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government says that more than 2,300 innocent people have been killed by militants and Pakistani agents in the Kashmir Valley since January 1990. An official spokesman of the state government said in Jammu today that the civilians killed included women and children. They were tortured and killed and later dubbed as informers by the militants to justify their crimes. The spokesman described as false and malicious allegations made by Pakistan at the World Human Rights Conference in Vienna about atrocities by the security forces in the valley. He said Pakistan has been carrying out massive human rights violations in the valley through its agents and then making an issue of it in international fora.

Pakistan Mission Warned on Verbal Attacks

BK2006160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] New Delhi has cautioned the Pakistan High Commission against personal attacks on Indian leaders and the use of unacceptable and extreme language. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said any repetition of such language and attacks will be regarded as serious. He was reacting to a Pakistan High Commission's release denigrating by name the Maharashtra chief minister [Sharad Pawar] in connection with the investigations into the Bombay bomb blasts. The release reproduces the text of the Pakistan Government's statement made in Islamabad.

The spokesman termed the Pakistan statement as tendentious, provocative and totally contrary to all diplomatic norms. He said the references to certain developments in India and also denigration of a senior and respected Indian political leader are unacceptable.

The spokesman made it clear that Pakistan's complicity in the planning and execution of Bombay bomb blasts is a fact, despite its attempts of (?obstruction) and negativism. He noted that the Pakistan High Commission has been using unacceptable and extreme language in recent months. The release of the statement by the high commission is characteristic of this practice. He said the Indian Government has time and again drawn the attention of Pakistani authorities to this. He said such conduct on the part of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi belies any expression of friendship and cooperation from Islamabad. It is also totally inconsistent with diplomatic propriety.

Foreign Secretary's U.S. Trip Previewed

BK2006122993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 93 p 13

[Commentary by Bhabani Sen Gupta: "When Dixit goes to US"]

[Text] Since it is almost certain that the Prime Minister will be going to Washington for his first summit with President Clinton either in August or in October, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit's visit to Washington next month will be in preparation for the crucial summit. Neither Mr. V.P. Singh nor Mr. Chandra Shekhar had a meeting with Mr. George Bush. For more than three-and-a-half years, then, there has been no summit-level meeting between the United States and India. Since, like it or not, relations with the U.S. are going to be the sine qua non of our foreign policy in the post-cold war period, along with the new economic policy, a close understanding leading to as close cooperation as possible consistent with our national dignity and interests, with the Clinton administration must be the first item on Delhi's foreign policy agenda. The coming Rao-Clinton summit therefore will be of the utmost importance; on it will be riveted all Indian eyes and many eyes in other countries.

In a way, the Rao-Clinton meeting will compare well with Mrs. Indira Gandhi's summit with President Reagan in the early '80s. They clicked very well. Mr. Reagan combined an old-world spirit of chivalry often times with a pragmatic, non-fundamentalist approach to foreign affairs. Between them they were able to achieve the first breakthrough in Indo-U.S. relations by separating multinational issues from bilateral ones.

On most multilateral issues, Palestine and Afghanistan in the early '80s for example, India and America differed and continued to differ for a long time to come. But if these differences were not allowed to cast a shadow on bilateral relations, the two largest democracies could go a long way to build a mutually beneficial cooperative relationship. This breakthrough, to which the then U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Harry Barnes, made a significant contribution, has survived for a decade without meeting any major setback.

Prime Minister Rao's summit with President Clinton will take place two years after the formal end of the cold war. On most multilateral issues India and the United States are now in broad agreement. Twenty-five bushfires were burning in the Third World even in 1990. In 1993 there is hardly a single one unless one counts the little civil wars in Angola, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. After India's new-fangled friendship with Israel, even on the very stubborn Middle East issue, India does not any longer quarrel with the U.S. peace plans and is ready to make whatever contributions it can to bring Israel and Arabs together. On issues like international and regional security, India mutes whatever differences it may have with the U.S. approach, hoping that one day not too far away, the U.S. will make room for India to [have] a permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

In the post-cold war world, America's problems with India relate mostly to bilateral or trilateral issues confined to the South Asian geopolitical region. Controversies about patents and access to markets for specific products are not serious enough to strain the bilateral relationship. These will be sorted out very soon to either side's broad satisfaction.

Americans are immensely interested in the huge Indian market which remains unpenetrated by any great economic power that the U.S. may regard as a rival. Americans are highly pleased with India's embracement of the market economy, a gentrified substitute term for capitalism. They are not in the least put off by Indian leaders' ritualistic rhetoric about Nehruvian socialism because they find no trace of it anywhere on this vast land. They won't wince even if in the dicey game of electoral politics, Indian communists join a coalition of secular democratic parties governing at the federal level. Americans know, as do most Indians including communists, that technology has made globalisation of all national economies unavoidable.

U.S.-India problems now reside in three specific areas—non- proliferation, human rights which is a euphimism for the Indian handling of the insurgency in the Valley of Kashmir, and relations with Pakistan. John Malott, who came to India and Pakistan recently as interim head of the South Asia Bureau in the State Department with a mandate from the Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, left a lot of bitterness behind for his blunt undiplomatic speaking. But the message he left with Pakistani and Indian rulers is unmistakable: The Clinton administration wants to see progress in all the three areas which make South Asia an important issue on its foreign policy agenda. Most Indian commentators have, not without justification, vented their anger and indignation on Malott. However, the three issues will figure most on the agenda of the summit, and Mr. Dixit's business will be to probe the American official mind further so that he can arm Mr. Rao with briefs that will enable him to have a meaningful conversation with Mr. Clinton.

One of the virtues of the Prime Minister is that he is a good and even great listener, unlike most other Ministers and almost all the bureaucrats who hardly ever listen to anyone and who regard their business to be to show ever on their visitors what they think and believe to be the given and inherited truth and wisdom. If Mr. Dixit can bring back to the Prime Minister a basketful of concrete American ideas on the three issues they have tickmarked as important in South Asia, it should not be difficult for whatever high-level group the Prime Minister may have set up to advise him on major issues relating to Kashmir, Pakistan, and non-proliferation to frame for him positions that Mr. Clinton may not regard as outdated, cold-warish, and far too egoistic at the end of the cold war.

Mr. Dixit's interculators in Washington (Mr. Malott will not be one of them) will ask him what concrete steps India is prepared to take to make South Asia nuclear-safe, a concept on which New Delhi and Islamabad seem now to agree. If the Foreign Secretary is armed with his own concrete ideas, he could launder them with the Americans and return with clear thinking on where the two government's propositions jell and where they do not. Pakistani officials are now talking about a no-war pact, an agreement with India which will prevent reprocessing of fissionable material, a no- first strike agreement, an accord to cap the present capabilities—all these without a resolution of the Kashmir conflict. The Prime Minister will have to tell President Clinton without ambiguity if India finds these propositions acceptable and if so what procedure it would like to adopt to realise them. This is a vital area where Mr. Dixit's visit will be crucial for the success of the summit.

On Kashmir, Mr. Dixit will have to convince the Americans that India has concrete workable plans to bring the bloody conflict to an early end and restore the political process with the full and free consent of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Clinton administration is not hugging any particular "option" for Kashmir, a point that has been much clear through diplomatic channels. It wants the bloody civil war to stop and the issue resolved between India, Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir. Personally, I believe that the American official and unofficial minds believe that a united, fully autonomous federal or confederal State of Jammu and Kashmir with its security guaranteed by India and Pakistan will be the best solution and that it will also remove the biggest thorn from the flesh of the India-Pakistan bodipolitik. This American idea is acceptable neither to India nor Pakistan. The people whom Mr. Dixit will meet will want to know what India's real option is, to what extent India is flexible, what is the Indian bottom line, and on what concrete foundations does India build its promise that it can restore peace and democracy in its own part of Kashmir in the near future.

Of course, Mr. Dixit will put all or most of his considerable celebral and diplomatic weight on the Pakistani role in the conflict in Kashmir. He will demand that the United States stop Pakistan from aiding and abetting the insurgency in the Valley. Nawaz Sharif's recent statement that he will bring an end to Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir confirms beyond a shadow of doubt. However, if Mr. Sharif can wash Pakistan's hand of the dirty work its men and materials have been doing in Kashmir, how does he convince India and the world that he has really done so? Will India accept his declaration in good faith? Will it accept international monitoring of the border to certify that effective aid from Pakistan has stopped coming in? Will the Clinton administration take full responsibility to ensure that Pakistan's pledges are honoured in action? Will the Prime Minister be ready to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan even if he is not fully satisfied that Pakistan has called it a day in the Valley as it has more or less done in Punjab?

After the Malott visit, the instant reaction in the government was that the Prime Minister would not go to Washington though the request for a summit had been made well before Mr. Malott came to India. However, in the last few weeks, the State Department has reportedly tried to make amends for the damage done by Malott to India-U.S. relations. The policy that India needs to sculpt for the U.S. is a judicious mixture of toughness and reasonableness, a willingness to be flexible while refusing to move from the bottom line.

Neither President Clinton nor Mr. Christopher has much of an idea about India and how best this country can be handled. However, if the Prime Minister can go to the summit with readiness to move on the crucial aspects of the South Asian situation, he will probably find Mr. Clinton a very friendly and pleasant President. The two may hit an understanding that will be of more positive and durable consequence than the diplomatic love affair Mrs. Gandhi was able to conduct with Mr. Reagan. Mr. Dixit will be big enough to set aside his anger at Malott's behaviour and do a really good job as the prime plumber for the first India-U.S. summit in more than three years.

U.S. Linkage of Human Rights, Aid Viewed

BK2006095793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jun 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Better Appreciation In US"]

[Text] The defeat of a move in the US House Foreign Affairs Committee to deny India $41 million by way of development assistance followed an interesting debate among its members. A notable feature of the discussion was the stress laid by some of them on the need for a balanced approach to the issue of human rights which was raised by Dan Burton, the foremost spokesman of the anti-Indian lobby on Capitol Hill. Over the years, he has distinguished himself not so much by his defence of human rights as by the fervour and consistency with which he has sought to enlist support for Pakistan's case on Kashmir. Since Islamabad has tried in recent years to wrap up its fixation about annexing Kashmir, in a presentable human rights package, Burton dutifully obliged the Pakistanis by parroting whatever they have alleged about Indian violation of these rights. In defence of his proposal to ban American aid to India, he even demanded repeal of five Indian anti- terrorism laws. The human rights rhetoric is so enchanting that it has often blinded audiences to the merits or otherwise of specific cases of alleged abuse. For once, the Republican Congressman's eloquence on human rights failed to achieve this purpose. Other members of the Committee preferred to view the whole issue in a proper perspective.

Gary Ackerman, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs, for instance, pointed out that even human rights groups opposed the linking of developmental aid to human rights abuses. A far more significant argument against Burton's move was that it was like "walking into another democracy" and "dictating" what laws it should repeal. "The fundamental issue to be taken note of in India," he said, "is that it is a democracy. And "no other democracy, not even the USA could dictate to any other country how to run its own affairs." It seems that the need to check the tendency on the part of American leaders to lecture other countries provocatively on how to govern is being realised. Such practice, even for the purpose of promoting democracy and liberalism, is obnoxious. It is to be hoped that Ackerman's remark will be widely noticed and welcomed in the US. Since it has emerged as the lone superpower, it is all the more important for its lawmakers, not to mention its government, to avoid seeming to ride roughshod over other countries' sensitivities.

As far as the defence of human rights is concerned, it is time US Congressmen devised a proper format for espousing the cause in other countries. They will do well to agree, to start with, to ensure that the issue does not become an excuse to agitate collateral claims, especially contentious political claims. Secondly, different tests should be applied to democratic regimes and authoritarian ones in determining culpability in the human rights sphere.

Iran

Velayati on Relations With Central Asian Republics

LD1906194793 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Crans-Montana (Switzerland), June 19, IRNA - Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing the Forum Foundation conference here today emphasized the need for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Iran and the newly independent republics of Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

Referring to "common and historical sentiments, ties and links" between Iran and the said states, he said "our utmost desire and wish is for peace to prevail in these states and the whole region. The independence and prosperity of these countries and the promotion of regional economic cooperation requires such peace and stability."

The Iranian Government, added Velayati, has put the expansion of relations with these countries high on its agenda.

He presented a detailed report on the construction of roads, bridges and railways and the establishment of shipping lines and air links between Iran and its newly independent neighbours to the north, which facilitate trade between Iran and the region.

The foreign minister announced that Iran and Turkmenistan have reached an agreement to study plans for a gas pipeline project to Europe via Iran and Turkey. The pipeline could pipe 15 to 30 billion cubic meters each year to Europe.

He asserted that the most important programmes in expanding the multilateral cooperation would be the setting up of the Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization (CASCO), to hold the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Asia (CSCA) and to expand the activities of the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Referring to the good will of the Islamic Republic in expanding its relations with the newly independent states, he criticized those who interfere in the internal affairs of the Central Asian and Transcaucasus states, a practice which in his words "contradicts the independence and the rights of these republics to self-determination on the basis of acceptable democratic principles".

This year the Forum Foundation's international conference has focused on the situation in the Balkans and Central Asia.

Foreign Minister Views Bosnian Crisis, Position

Firm Action From ICO Needed

LD1906201493 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid al-Gabid, today said that the only way to end the mass killing of defenceless people in Bosnia was to adopt a firm approach towards the Serbian aggression.

Velayati's note to the OIC chief was in reply to the latter's letter dated June 14 on the OIC stance towards the worsening crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Velayati appreciated al-Gabid's efforts to solve the Bosnian crisis, and said that United Nations Security Council resolutions to restore peace in Bosnia would be ineffectual without cooperation and co-ordination of the international community especially that of the Islamic states.

In his letter, Velayati expressed full support of Islamic Iran to Bosnian Muslims in their struggle against the Serbian aggressors and backed the idea of dispatching U.N. forces to enforce Security Council Resolution 836.

Ready To Send Peacekeeping Troops

LD1906192393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] In reply to a letter from the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the struggles of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the aggressive Serbs.

In his letter to Hamid al-Gabid, Velayati discussed Iran's efforts, as a member of the ICO Liaison Group, to mobilize the international community and upgrade the role of the Islamic countries in defending the innocent nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, saying: Iran believes the defense of the innocent nation of this land is its main duty and is ready, as before, to provide any material or moral support toward the implementation of UN Security Council and ICO resolutions.

In the letter, the Iranian foreign minister pointed to Iranian readiness to send peacekeeping troops within the context of Security Council Resolution 836 and stressed: The only way to end the killing of the innocent Bosnian Muslims is to seriously confront the Serb aggression.

'Serbian Crimes' Viewed

LD2006170993 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Crans-Montana (Switzerland), June 20, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today called for serious measures by international circles, the United Nations Security Council in particular, to the on-going Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Velayati also criticized the U.S. and Europe in this regard and said the unreasonable attitude of Washington and certain European countries is a green light to the Serbs to rest assured that these countries support or at least tolerate the Muslim genocide in Bosnia.

Speaking at the fourth meeting of the International Forum Foundation conference, Velayati brought to light the plight of the Bosnians who are fighting on two fronts.

On the one hand, he said Bosnian Muslims are facing Serbian tyranny and aggression, and on the other hand the Croats are exploiting the situation to occupy more territories.

He demanded the lifting of "unfair" arms embargo on Muslims in Bosnia and said the one-sided embargo imposed has deprived the Bosnians of any defense against aggression.

"This is nothing but a reward to the Serbs," added the Iranian foreign minister.

He urged international forums particularly the Security Council to force the Serbs to stop their crimes.

Referring to the uniform stance of Islamic countries in the recent ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Karachi, Pakistan, Velayati said today world Muslims realize that their brothers in faith in Bosnia are being massacred for the guilt of being Muslims, "and this feeling does not help global peace whatsoever."

Drawing a comparison between the military operations of the U.S. and West in Kuwait and Somalia, and their silence towards the Serbian savagery, he said the U.S. and its allies are following a dual policy towards the issue of aggression.

"They resorted to military forces in Kuwait and Somalia in order to safeguard their interests there, however, they refrained from doing so in Bosnia," Velayati added.

The forum foundation comrpises a group of political, economic and cultural personalities of Switzerland, which has held four international meetings since 1990.

The Balkans and the Muslim-populated republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus were the two main topics at the three-day meeting attended by more than 180 political, economic and cultural figures of the world. This year's meeting is to conclude Sunday evening.

Condemns Partition Attempts

LD2006195293 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Vienna, June 20, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday condemned any attempt to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into separate zones and called for lifting the arms sanctions imposed on the republic.

Velayati and the Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, met in Vienna during which meeting Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic and a number of officials of the two countries were present.

Velayati reiterated Iran's overall support for the Bosnian Muslims and said Iran, based on the principles of its foreign policy which underlined defence for the rights of the Muslims, considered support for Bosnians as its duty.

He stressed that world countries, especially members of the UN Security Council, should not help perpetuation of bloodshed and massacre of people by remaining silent vis-a-vis Serbs crimes.

Velayati briefed the Bosnian president on the outcome of the international Forum Foundation conference in Switzerland where he outlined stands of the Muslim world towards the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and emphatically reiterated united support of the world Muslims for the Bosnian people.

Pointing to the forthcoming session of the European Community, Velayati urged European heads of state to adopt a decisive stand against crimes of the Serbs.

Meanwhile, Izetbegovic briefed Velayati on latest military and political developments in Bosnia and criticized international community for failing to take a serious step.

He noted that if arms sanctions were lifted, Bosnian people, with the cooperation of world Muslims, could defend themselves.

The Bosnian president referred to Iran's opposition to disintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a principled stand and said that Bosnian Muslims would not yield to dismemberment of their homeland.

President Views Bosnia, Palestinian Problem

LD1806231593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic First Program Network in Persian 1125 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 18 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now that the month of Muharram is approaching, I believe that the issues of the Islamic world should receive greater attention. Today we have Bosnia-Herzegovina as a very important center where Islam and infidelity have lined up against one another, and where the worst crimes of history are unfolding and the most oppressed people are defending themselves in a helpless manner. We have a duty in that we should help these people in any way that we can, politically, financially, and even militarily. Fortunately, even the most ardent enemies of Islam have at last admitted that the way to save the Bosnian people is to give them arms. [crowd chants] Our people are honored that today after the end of these prayers they will be attending the funeral ceremonies for one of the martyrs of Bosnia's Jihad, who had been sent by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to help the people there. This is something for us to be proud of. [passage omitted]

Alongside this, there is the Palestinian problem. Every day this wound in the body of the Islamic world is becoming deeper, while the officials of Islamic countries are unfortunately still following the wrong path by investing hope in others to lend them support; something which will never materialize. I do hope, however, that the Islamic world will emerge triumphantly from this test which has been put before it, and will fulfill this major divine obligation by lending the support necessary for salvaging the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Saudi-Iranian Cooperation Agreement Reached

NC2006074793 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that Saudi Arabia and Iran reached an agreement in principle to conclude a "cooperation and fraternity" agreement between the two sides to cover political, economic, and security matters. The agreement was reached during Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent Gulf tour, which followed President Mubarak's visit to the Gulf states.

The "cooperation and fraternity" agreement underlines the importance of joint security arrangements to avert any future security threats to the Gulf region. The hitherto unannounced agreement stresses the need to settle any temporary disputes between Tehran and Riyadh or any other Gulf state through direct political consultations and contacts without interference from a third party in these disputes.

Iran, through its foreign minister, had agreed not to raise the issue of the U.S. presence in the Gulf or the security arrangements in the region so that it could be included in these arrangements, which Syria, alone, could also join.

It is worth noting that during their meeting on 12 June, the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration's eight member states failed to achieve positive results on the military part of the declaration.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Recent Elections

LD1806212293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1031 GMT 18 Jun 93

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 18 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In my first sermon, naturally, as the people expect, I will talk about the election, which is of course the most comprehensive and controversial topic in the world and our society today. In the second sermon we have several issues about the week's events, which I will summarize.

As has been the norm in the past, when a controversial issue has arisen in society I have presented an analysis of it in the Friday prayer sermons so that my understanding as an expert in the system could be passed on the people. Naturally, there may be analyses other than mine. In my view it is a very important subject; we must consider it as one of the most important sermons delivered in Friday prayers.

We should analyze the subject from two viewpoints. One, in terms of the people's participation in the elections, and two, in terms of the composition of the votes, both of which require explanation.

I will say first that if we look at the results of the six presidential elections we have had since the revolution we will see a constant trend, with some explicable fluctuations, which has a very good outcome. That is, one could reach the fundamental conclusion that since the revolution our revolutionary society, in terms of the people's presence on the scene and their thoughts, votes, and opinions, has an orderly, clear, and lasting form. This could bear witness to international observers that Islamic Iran has been stable since the revolution, that imagining that the revolutionary waves, the waves of current excitement had a great effect on the people is not a correct conclusion. Of course, there is some fluctuation, which is perfectly natural.

I will first read the figures from those elections to you. I will read from my notes so that the numbers are accurate. I will first read out the numerical totals and then percentages. The first election: 14,085,243 votes. The second election: 14,532,869 votes. The two elections are similar in terms of total numbers, with a difference of 500,000. The third election: 16,737,381 votes. it increased by over 2 million, which needs explanation. The reason for the fluctuation needs to be explained. The fourth election: 14,089,468 votes. Here, it was reduced by 2.7 million, which needs explaining. The fifth election: 16,409,353. The number of votes again went up by 2.5 million, the reason is obvious. The sixth election, which is the present one: 16,700,353 votes. Of course, after the recount which is being carried out in conjunction with the Guardian Council the number of votes will increase by a few thousand, but it is roughly the same.

Well, about 14 million votes were cast in three of the elections and about 16 million in the other three. The reason for the fluctuations: The first election in which we reached 16 million votes was the third, when the great leader of our revolution [Khamene'i] became a candidate after the martyrdom of martyr Raja'i. The situation was clear. The incident at the Islamic Republican Party headdquarters and then the explosion at the prime minister's office and the martyrdom of many of the country's leading figures and the anxiety of the people caused some excitement and the number of votes rose by a couple of million.

In the fourth election, when the figures came down by 2.7 million, the situation was no longer one of such excitement as before, because the same president was merely starting his second term. The president has had no responsibility when he is first elected, therefore the people can find no ground to criticize him. Quite naturally, then, everyone will come to the ballot boxes with hope. However, when the second term begins, he has already held the presidency for four years, and if people have any grievances, criticisms, or something to say, then this will influence their votes. That is why we see the decline in that figure. We must, however, bear in mind that there were differences between the presidency in those days and the presidency now. At that time the president was not responsible in today's sense, as then there was a head of government—that is to say, a prime minister—and it was even possible that the president could be critical of the government's work. In any case, the president was viewed in society as the head of the executive affairs of the country.

Well, in comparison to all other elections held during the last 14 to 15 years, our most recent election—which took place this year—shows the greatest total number of votes. [passage omitted]

Of course someone may put forward the issue of population growth; this growth has evidently been present right from the outset, and is nothing new and nothing peculiar to the present time. It has always existed, and you can see that it has always gone through various fluctuations as well.

In these elections there was much pressure by foreign propaganda, and unfortunately there was also some pressure from certain positions adopted inside the country. The purpose of it all was to keep people away from the ballot boxes. Right from the outset—that is, from several months ago—foreign media and some sections of the domestic media began to seek to dishearten people because of the economic policies and such like. Also during the first days of the election campaign there was a new theme claiming that there was no contest at all this year, that the candidates all belonged to the same line, and that because there was no competition it was very clear right from the start who the winner would be, so after all what was the point of people voting? Such wrongful whispers were repeated many times, creating so much pressure that the other candidates thought they has to talk a great deal in order to be taken seriously. The first question which was put to them was that they were not serious contenders. Because of this propaganda,they were forced to indulge in too much sloganeering, in order to be considered seriously by society. We still see however that we had a record; that is the highest record in terms of people's presence. For sure, the effective call by the eminent leader of the revolution played a role. Of course this has always been so; in the old days it was the imam, and now it is the revolution's leader, as well as everyone else who has always invited people to be present. This was therefore nothing new this year.

In quantitative terms, one must really say that participation in the elections constituted a very good proportion. I will compare our figures with only one foreign country that makes many allegations against us. Exactly 57 percent of those eligible to vote went to our ballot boxes—that is about 29 million and 300,000 to 400,000; this figure was given to me by the Interior Ministry today. In comparison to many elections in democratic countries where a large number of elections are held, this is a very good ratio. I only cite the example of America, because that country leads the others in making claims against us. You can guess the situation in other countries for yourselves.

In the last elections in America—which has a 260- 270 million population and where 188 million people are eligible to vote—105 million, or 43 percent of the people, voted. In America—which alleges against us that not enough people participated—43 percent of those eligible participated, while 57 percent participated in Iran. Now do they have the right to blow the horns and put out propaganda that in Iran people have lost their heart for their revolution, for their leader and their officials? These are our definite and official figures about what happened, and theirs too.

You can also add that in our Iran we have some additional difficulties in voting which, God willing, we shall solve in future elections. For instance, in villages there are mobile voting stations. The station remains for an hour in a village and it is obvious that not all villagers can gather in one place. They are busy with the water, the farm, and the animals. Or they might be ill, or be here or there. Until now we have usually had about a half of the rural vote. God willing, we shall have to deal with this problem. There is also the problem of the small number of voting boxes in cities. You saw the long lines. Sometimes you have to wait for two hours. People have to wait. We made election day a Friday, when some people are busy, some people want to go outside the city. Or we insist that people must bring their identity cards. Many people do not have identity cards with them. Things of this sort. God willing, we shall deal with these problems in the future regulations and this will take the vote count much higher than this. Even in the present conditions, however, we are ahead of America, which believes itself to be the mother of voting countries. It has 47 percent of the eligible voters and we have 57 percent. These figures are of significance.

Now let us look at the composition. In composition too there have been fluctuations. The only comparable election was the one in which the last president was reelected for the second time. As for the rest: In the first election, there were the liberals and all those talks. In the second, we had martyr Raja'i and the particular conditions after the dismissal of Bani-Sadr. In the third, as I mentioned, there were special conditions. In the third and fourth elections our greatest figure, now the esteemed leader of the revolution, was the candidate. Really, this election and the last are so similar. It is really interesting. I want to say: Look at this nature, a healthy and continuous nature. In the first election he [Ayatollah Khamene'i] received 15,905,987 votes, nearly 16 million. In the second he received 12,068,602 votes. Of course, because the votes decreased by some 2 million votes; some 2 million who did vote then did not vote this time. [sentence as heard] Nearly 2 million. In other words there is a difference of nearly 4 million votes between the first and second presidential elections, and the president was not at the time responsible for executive affairs. At that time the government of the prime minister was responsible. Of course at that time too when the candidates campaigned they would blame the president for some of the problems. Much like this election. From a propaganda point of view it was very much like now. There is not much difference from a propaganda point of view. Well, this is very significant and very interesting. In other words, our people are voting naturally. They are making a choice themselves. Campaigns are not that important. Naturally they make a difference but not that much. When someone has been responsible for the affairs of the country for four years, some people have criticisms and difficulties. Government decisions have made them dissatisfied. This shows itself. This reduced the vote in the last election by 4 million and it did the same this time.

This should be a lesson to those who claim that Iranians vote automatically [kelisheh'i]. Truly—let them admit that these people decide for themselves, regardless of who is running. These people—well, we know that the eminent leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] has became increasingly popular since the start of the revolution. He is a figure who was always loved by the imam of the ummah. No one can deny that. Of course, counterrevolutionaries have always been opposed to him; even during his period as imam, I mean during his period as vali [supreme jurisconsult].

This shows a very clear picture of the health of the elections and the stability of the trend and movement of the revolution. Of course, there were some additional difficulties during this period. More people participated this time; maybe because the people have grown in the course of developments and the revolution in their country. They participate in greater numbers; not in comparison with the last election figure but with the one before that. In comparison with the last election, that is natural [sentence incomplete as heard]. Then, we were in a time of war. That is to say, whereas at that time, some people were experiencing difficulties because of the war, this time, it was because of reconstruction. At both times, there was a disheartening factor. Some people were more enthusiastic during the war, of course, and used to vote more.

I must take this opportunity to express my admiration for the people; a nation which, during 15 years of revolution, having undergone so many pressures, so many tribulations, so many propaganda attacks, has carried on along its path, been present on the scene, and taken part in elections. This shows the people's confidence in their officials and the officials' confidence in the nation; and the stability, strength, and reigning orderliness in our public opinion. There was another similarity with that previous time; this is interesting. The people who did not vote for the president during the second stage [as heard] were living in places where there are difficulties. It was the same this time. If we compare the figures, we can see which towns have more problems. This shows the freedom of choice again. That is to say, in those places where there are problems , for whatever reasons—political, economic, ethnic, and so on—this will reveal itself during elections. This is a very good thing. We can see elections as a very clear mirror of our society's public opinion and make our plans accordingly.

Here, a fundamental issue arises which forms the second part of my remarks. That is, was the fact that there was a decline in the number of votes—in relative, not absolute terms—predictable? I think it was entirely predictable. On the day when I accepted the responsibility of the presidency, I prepared myself for much more serious things than this. I was prepared to lose the people's vote altogether because I knew that we would have a very difficult task during the period of reconstruction. I want to explain this issue to you a little. God willing, it is also of interest to you as a historical point which I have not raised before in my public speeches. It is a point which needs to be made for our history, although I may have mentioned it in private meetings.

When the issue of my candidacy [for his first presidential term] was first raised many of my friends in the Majles came and told me that it was not right for me to leave the Majles. They were worthy and qualified individuals for whom I have a great deal of respect. They said that first of all, if you remain in the Majles, the Majles is the bulwark of the nation, it is the bulwark of the government. You have always supported the government. No matter who is in the government you support the government and with the support of the Majles the government will be able to function well. But if you go to the government, it is not clear that the next Majles without you will support your decisions. They already knew of my decisions.

The second point they made was that the situation in the country was so critical that we should not take a risk and should not sacrifice a person who enjoys the trust of the people and who can be effective at critical times. We should not sacrifice him at such a stage. You should send someone else and then you should support him.

They enumerated a number of problems. I wish I had brought the account of those discussions and could read to you the points they enumerated. They said that our treasury is completely empty; not only it is empty, but it owes more than 15 trillion [currency not specified] to the Central Bank, and this is the people's money. Additionally, the budget has a 50 percent deficit. This is our daily expenditure which we do not have [as heard]. Ten cities and 1,200 villages are completely destroyed. The enemy is still on our soil. We do not know if he is going to leave or not. He has not yet agreed to leave our soil. Our PoW's are still in Baghdad, and it is not clear if they will be released. The factories are partly- closed. They either do not have raw materials or spare parts. Many important economic centers of the country—power generators, ports, oil pipes, pumps, refineries, and the like have been destroyed during the war and their reconstruction is not an easy task. Our cities are ruined because during the war they devoted all their capabilities to the war efforts. Our employees have not received any promotion for years, and from tomorrow all of them will demand promotion, and it is their right to do so and you have to pay them all this extra money. The bazaar is completely empty and all goods are either available through rationing or in the black market, and there is a great deal of hoarding in the bazaar. There is a diversity of rates everywhere. The foreign exchange situation is very uncertain. Our foreign debts amount to $12 billion; against this we have not imported any capital, but we have imported and consumed; we have not imported any machinery.

You will certainly not be able to solve all these problems. Our system, our order is also disjointed; everything is done through rationing, everything is nationalized. Public opinion will also not allow you to correct that system easily. Therefore, why do you go to declare your candidacy for the presidency?

I told them: What is your proposal? Whom should we send if I do not go? The previous government [of former Prime Minister Mir- Hoseyn Musavi] resigned a couple of years ago and we have kept him through a great deal of request and pleading. The imam issued an order and that is why he agreed to stay. Furthermore, if we do not go forward will these reforms be carried out by anyone? If we did not go forward and these reforms were not carried out would we not be answerable later? Would the clergy not be answerable? Would Islam not be answerable? Would the revolution not be answerable? Why are you only thinking of four years from now? Think about 20 years from now. If in 20 years our economy completely collapsed and we were not able to put it right, what answer would we have then? Today there is some hope of putting it right.

Their final word was: Why do you sacrifice yourself? I told them that from the start I dedicated my life to this revolution. From the age of 27, 28, or 30 when I decided to get involved in the struggle, I also decided to sacrifice myself for the sake of Islam and the revolution. [Crowd shouts: "God is great"]

Thank you. Thank you very much. Please let me tell you something. It is a piece of history I want to tell you about. As I said, from the first moment when I entered the struggle, I made up my mind that I would dedicate myself totally to the revolution. I also said this after the previous election. I said in the Majles that I was devoted to the revolution, whatever I am and whatever I do. From the start until now, at every moment, be it during the revolution, now, or before, whenever there was a need for a sacrifice to be made, whenever there was an important task to do somewhere which I was capable of doing, I rolled up my sleeves.

During the struggle, there was a time when it was necessary for the issue of Palestine to be raised, but no one was prepared to do so, because the regime took a very hard line on the Palestinian issue. I wrote a book, raised the issue, and suffered the worst forms of torture because of it; and I am glad.

At another time, it was necessary for us to enter into armed combat, because, after 15 Khordad [protests against the shah in 1963], they had crushed the people's spirit and we had to break that atmosphere with the sound of a bullet. I did what needed to be done then. We used to think at that time that we had two years to live, because we believed that an armed struggler had an average life expectancy of two years. We entered into battle on that basis and, of course, that did not come to pass.

Before the revolution, there was a time when our strugglers abroad ran into difficulties. I went abroad to solve that. I stayed for five, six months. I resolved their differences. Then, I went to Najaf, to Lebanon, to the United States, to Europe. I resolved all the differences, I established some agreement. I was there, in Belgium, when I heard the news that they had caught a group. The person who had been caught was the person immediately before me; in other words, the next person that was going to be caught was me. That is, if he confessed, I would be next.

My friends said: Do not go to Iran. Stay and run affairs here. I said, no, I think Iran needs strugglers now. It would be no great achievement to stay here and distribute pamphlets. I will go back and carry out our work, even from prison. You can stay here and do your publicity work. I knew they would arrest me, but I returned. When I arrived at the airport, they took my passport. Then, when I got home, they arrested me. Then, I was in prison until the doors opened during the revolution; near the victory of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Then the war started. We got as far as the Ramadan operations and the preliminary Val-Fajr operations; things were going well upto then. After these two operations, we hit a dead end on the battle fronts. There were domestic problems within the armed forces. We were really in a state of crisis. Again, I accepted the responsibility for commanding the war, but anonymously, because I was not a military man and I did not want to say that a clergyman was in charge of the war. Our military personalities, both in the army and in the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, had a position to maintain on the fronts. I was the anonymous commander of the war until almost the very end. In all those successful operations—the Karbalas, the Val-Fajrs, the conquest of al-Faw, the advance as far as Ma'ut, and so on—I never announced my role, because I was not involved for the sake of making my name. However, when the tide turned in the war for whatever reason, and they took al-Faw back from us, it became clear that the war needed someone who would take responsibility and make it known that he was doing so.

At that time, it became impossible to carry on as before. We agreed that the imam should officially announce the handing over of the position of commander in chief. It was necessary to know who was responsible then. It was clear that it would be a grave task. When we wanted to accept a cease-fire, I and the eminent leader [Khamene'i] and Musavi-Ardebili, Haj Ahmad [Khomeyni], and the prime minister [Musavi] were received by the emminent imam in order to explain what the situation was and to say that we had to accept. The problem was that—well, the imam had said so many times that we should fight until victory—what were we to do now? How were we to accept? I said: I am the commander, I am the acting commander in chief. I will announce the acceptance of the cease- fire and then you can support me. I said that so that the problem could be resolved, because we all felt that it should be resolved; the question was how. There had to be one person who would be responsible. That is what we agreed.

We thought that we had to solve the problem ourselves, but the imam was ahead of us. We went to the Majles only to find that the imam had sent a letter and had solved the issue with his own statement; he took the responsibility. That was really amazing to us and we had not thought that the imam would have to take personal responsibility and to announce that he had drunk the cup of poison as he did.

That has been my position. Now, too, I feel that, despite the problems you speak about, you have endorsed me and I have said this to my friends in the Majles. I believe that the situation can be improved. I believe that this country is rich and can solve its problems through a 10-year plan. Of course, during these 10 years, we will need some people who are prepared to roll up their sleeves, to take responsibility, and to accept the difficulties. I am one such person. I am prepared to lead from the front. I will go forward as long as I am able and, when necessary, someone else will carry out the task. Let us complete this stage.

Of course, I have said this in our discussions: I have great faith in the people. They are vigilant. They are intelligent. They are not deceived by propaganda. A minority is deceived, but the majority of the people understand what the situation is.

Today, when we have had our elections, our predictions have been fulfilled to the letter. That is, when I look at the majority of the people, I can see that nothing will deter them. The kind of strange propaganda which was broadcast during the election period would have been enough to disturb any person, whether Iranian or foreign. The foreigners really went as far as vileness in order to make things difficult for us. Let me give a few examples, and there are many more.

For example, during these times, we were short of cooking oil and they knew it. They delayed the loading of the ships, until the elections were over. When the elections were over, the ships carrying the cooking oil reached our ports; on Friday evening. You may see this as a coincidence if you like. Serums require a certain substance which we import; a special kind of plastic which is used for the containers. The rest of it we can make domestically. They delayed sending that substance—and it is only a small component—on various pretexts. It arrived after the elections. They did the same thing with washing powder. These all created problems for us during this period.

Of course the domestic problems were not without effect either. We have such problems internally as well, because of those political events and ideas that exist. For example one realizes, on the election Friday morning, that such and such a mayor in a provincial capital has rushed and destroyed some people's homes so that 500 gather there. This is not accidental. It can be accidental; we will investigate later. Despite such plots the people really maintained their vigilance very well, they understand very well. Things happened just as I predicted.

Before the elections many friends were saying we should postpone the unified hard currency rate of exchange because of the elections. They said it is unwise at the moment. I said: Look here, if you make a car which is going up hill lose its momentum, then when it wants to resume its movement it will make a great loss. What you are apprehensive about is that I should not get votes. Well, let me not get the votes, let someone else get the votes. This is not that important. Of course this is not my apprehension. I believe people to be more intelligent than that. I have said... [pauses] Of course, this is not comparable, but to some extent it is. We must give the same reply that 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib [Muhammad's son-in-law] used to give. Why should I wait when I see something that constitutes a wrong against the state! Why should I trample on social justice for the sake of votes?

I gave them examples. I gave them the instance of the milk [prices]. If God asks me why you act in such a way: offering milk at 20 tumans [10 rials to each tuman] when it costs the government 40 tuman per liter; what happens to the rural share, the share of those towns which do not have pasteurized milk. What should be my reply? This is exactly the sentence I used. They had proposed to his holiness amir ['Ali] give to all for a while; [otherwise] what do mean by equality? His holiness replied: What are you saying! Even if the wealth were my own I would not give it to them like that, let alone when it belongs to the people themselves! How can I share out the people's wealth? Most of the subsidies we give are of this kind. I fail to understand how those gentlemen who speak of social justice can answer such questions. Our system seeks social justice. Many of the subsidies... [pauses] Cars! You know what state they were in! Before the revolution, before our (?five year) plan we used to produce cars with hard currency at seven tumans [rate of exchange for U.S. dollar, which used to be 70 rials]. Trucks used to be offered at 700/800 thousand tumans, motor cars —for whoever managed to get them—not everyone managed to get them, a few people used to get them. We used to offer motor cars for 100,150, 200 [thousand tumans] and the buyer would sell them for several million tumans.

Well, who is to answer for that? Is that social justice? There is no answer to that.

I said to those gentlemen: Do not insist that we should sin. Of course, there is a limit; the limit is the revolution. If the revolution suffers all of that could be granted. Therefore, we will not stop the subsidies all at once, but will do it gradually. I say here and now, we will gradually continue the policy of discontinuing the subsidies, to a point where the revolution does not suffer. But if private individuals suffer, that does not matter. Let one person suffer, but for justice not to suffer.

In the case of Hajj, is it right that every traveller costs two to three hundred thousand tumans? For people who can afford it to come to the government, pay 50,000, or 30,000 tumans and go to Hajj? Their food costs more than 30,000 tumans. Of course, there are some people who had paid some time ago and we made a commitment and they should go. But we do not accept that it should continue. They have already paid and we accept it.

Or in the case of overseas travel. We have five or six hundred thousand foreign tdavellers every year. We used to take them to London and back at an exchange rate of seven tumans [per dollar]. Is that right? It costs the government 50, 60, 70, 80, 100 thousand tumans. If everybody were to go, one could accept it. But if not everybody goes, it cannot be. What sort of an Islamic system would it be? Where it does not hurt the system we will stop it. You saw that it did not harm the system. We have been changing it for four years and more people took part in the presidential election than the last time. But those who had not been convinced did not vote for me. Would it endanger Islam if a third of the people do not vote for me? No, it would not. Later on, all those people will realize and their vote will change.

I believe this to be a family matter. If in a family a child's feelings are hurt by its parents it may take a different decision, but it will not separate from them. The votes that have been cast at this stage are all within the revolution frame. All the candidates approved the policies in general terms; they were stating matters of difference of taste. All those who voted, voted for the system and the revolution. Most of them of course; they may be that some of the anti-revolutionaries have made some mischief.

An amusing incident occurred in our household on the polling day which is not inappropriate to relate. It is an interesting anecdote. We were sitting in a room. There is a little child who is my grandchild. I noticed him on the balcony, walking near the ledge and close to falling down. It was very dangerous. I told them to bring the child to me and I gave him advice that he should not go there since he might fall and be injured and have to have an injection. No matter how much I told him he continued to want to go back. I reprimanded him, threatened him; he realized that I was serious, thought for a while, and went away. He had gone and found his mother and told her: Come; I want to go and vote for Dr Jasbi. [laughter] What I tell you does not mean that those who have voted otherwise are childish. What I want to tell you concerns the emotions. That is, even when one's child becomes angry with one it reacts in that fashion. Our friends in revolution are those who have such relations with us. When they don't like something I have done—and they want to vote, they are Muslims and committed as well—they go and vote like that. Nothing is the matter with that. We must not take offense at that at all.

Gentlemen, I make it clear here. We shall continue with our policies. I did not hide it when people voted. I said my program is what you see. Of course the second development plan will go to the Majles which might vote for it or might not. That is another issue. The program, the direction is this. Other candidates too accepted this and did not say anything extra here. Of course we have passed through the main stages. About 80 percent of the economic adjustment policy has been passed and only 20 percent is left. The second development plan is a time for stability. The results of the present period will have to be stabilized. The main problems have been solved by me. Not me, the whole system including the Majles, the government, the leadership of the leader, we all worked together to bring it to this stage. Very much like a car at the top of a hill. It has to pass for a while and reach the smooth road. I see a very bright future. In the future we shall neither have foreign exchange problems nor problems with foodstuff, primary goods, medicine, or infrastructural matters. We have dealt with all these problems in the first plan. People simply do not know the amount of investment in the last four years which has yet to bring in a return. Long-distance railways will open. Huge dams will give fruit. Great factories, refineries, petrochemical, consumer and steel industries as well as mines will give fruit. These will bear fruit in the second plan and will bring about a very bright period. Difficulties and dead ends have been solved. Of course we need some time to bring them all to fruit. The main work of the country, thank God, has been done, however. Even if I did not win in this election I am sure whoever took over would not have been able to change this policy. The foundations have been built so strongly that it will not, God willing, be damaged by rain and wind. [crowd chants: "Hashemi, Hashemi, we shall support you]

Interior Minister Nuri has just made a point which is most possibly correct. I said the American vote was 105 million but he said it is possibly 83 million, which would then make the 43 percent correct; otherwise it might be 53 percent. Even if we imagine their vote as 53 percent we shall continue to be ahead in comparison, with 57 percent. This was a correct point made and I am thankful.

Finally I would like to thank all those who participated in any way in the election. [passage omitted]

Nepal

NCP: Leaders Who Died in Car 'Accident' Murdered

BK1806004893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 17 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) late Thursday rejected a government commission's report on the death of two of its leaders which said they died in a vehicle accident caused by negligence.

Communist party General Secretary Madan Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit were killed when their four-wheel-drive jeep plunged into the Trishuli River 180 kilometres (120 miles) west of Kathmandu on May 16.

But the jeep's driver, Amar Lama, also a member of the NCP-UML, miraculously escaped unhurt from the 46 metre (150 foot) plunge off the road from Pokhara, further west, from where the three were returning from a conference to Kathmandu.

"The NCP-UML investigation commission has found that the two leaders were not killed in the accident, but were murdered in cold blood," a statement from the party said.

"The driver of the jeep is also deeply involved in this conspiracy so the party has decided to terminate his membership and announce him a traitor," it added.

Earlier Thursday, the government released a report on the incident by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil.

His investigation report, also submitted to acting Home Minister Ram Hari Joshi, stated the accident was caused by gross negligence on Lama's part and ruled out any conspiracy against the dead communist leaders, according to official radio reports.

Anil, a left-leaning legal expert, inspected the accident site and went to Pokhara to take statements from people who had attended the Pokhara conference.

Anil also spoke to Lama who originally claimed to have swum from the vehicle after it fell into the river, but later said he had jumped from the vehicle before it hit the water.

Lama was taken into police custody for questioning earlier, a party source said.

Last month, after two successive post-mortems on the bodies, the doctors said the leaders did not drown as their lungs did not contain water. However they did not announce the cause of the deaths.

The doctors' reports, and conflicting statements from Lama had raised suspicion among communist leaders and the investigation teams.

Bhandari was a strong critic of the government particularly over the question of the Indo-Nepal Accord on the Tanakpur barrage which he alleged was against Nepal's national interests.

Local newspapers have alleged the incident was stage-managed.

A third civilian investigation headed by leftist parliamentarian Padma Ratna Tuladhar has not yet disclosed its findings.

NCP Demonstrators, Police Clash in Kathmandu

BK1906002693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1705 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 18 (AFP)—At least five people were injured Friday when riot police fired teargas at pro-communist demonstrators when they attacked the American library to protest a commission report blaming the deaths of two of their leaders on negligence.

More than 5,000 people attended the demonstration organised by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) to reject a government report that concluded the deaths of party General Secretary Madan Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit last month in a vehicle accident was caused by their driver's negligence.

Bhandari and Ashrit were killed when their four-wheel-drive jeep plunged into the Trishuli river 180 kilometres (120 miles) west of Kathmandu on May 16.

But the jeep's driver, Amar Lama, also a member of the NCP-UML, miraculously escaped unhurt from the 46 metre (150 foot) plunge off the road from Pokhara, further west, from where the three were returning from a conference to Kathmandu.

The demonstrators called for a new all-party commission under the Supreme Court to investigate the case and alleged that the two leaders had been murdered as part of a political plot.

Bhandari was a strong critic of the government particularly over the question of the Indo-Nepal accord on the Tanakpur barrage which he alleged was against Nepal's national interests.

The report, released by the government on Thursday, was written by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil and submitted to acting Home Minister Ram Hari Joshi.

Anil's report stated the accident was caused by gross negligence on Lama's part and ruled out any conspiracy against the dead communist leaders, according to official radio reports.

But a statement released late Thursday by the communist party said that a "NCP-UML investigation commission has found that the two leaders were not killed in the accident, but were murdered in cold blood."

NCP-UML legislator K.P. Oli, who penned his party's report of the incident, criticized the government Friday, saying the commission was constituted "hastily without consulting the NCP-UML and it has protected a traitor like Amar Lama."

Meanwhile, the party's newly-elected General Secretary Madhan Nepal said: "The commission has distorted the facts to protect the criminals."

A third civilian investigation headed by leftist parliamentarian Padma Ratna Tuladhar has not yet disclosed its findings.

Pakistan

President 'Eager' To Meet With Prime Minister

BK1906072193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Report on "exclusive interview" with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan by unidentified THE NEWS reporter(s) at Aiwan-e-Sadr on 17 June]

[Text] Islamabad—"I am ready, willing and eager to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Shariff whenever he calls. I shall receive him with open arms."

This was stated by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in an exclusive interview with THE NEWS at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday afternoon.

"Actually I have always held publicly and proclaimed and given standing instructions to my staff to the effect that in arranging my engagements, the Prime Minister has the first claim on my time."

To the pointed question whether the President had ever contemplated, as reported, any preconditions such as the dismissal of some cabinet ministers or high officials for reconciliation with the prime minister, the president uttered a firm "no." He could never entertain such a notion. The president and the prime minister were integral parts of the system and could not do without each other. "How could I then put conditions of any sort."

"Of course I took action against the National Assembly and the government according to my rights," the president said, "but now the Supreme Court has given its judgement and I have submitted to it, dissolution is behind us, it should not come in the way of normal relations."

The president looked in perfect health and spoke softly but eloquently. He was never at a loss for a point or word.

"As a matter of fact", he said: "I always used to receive Ms Benazir Bhutto, when she was the Prime Minister, at the lift. But when I wanted to show the same courtesy to Mian Nawaz Sharif, he would not let me do it. Indeed he would not even let me see him off at the door of my office because he said that he held me in too high an esteem."

"In fact" the President continued, "but for our meeting normal functions have been resumed since the day the National Assembly was restored. The Prime Minister

Secretariat sent me the proposal for the present session of the National Assembly which I duly endorsed. Again when I received the summary for the appointment of an Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the absence abroad of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, I readily approved it."

As for the Eight Amendment the President said: I was bound to defend it to the extent that it was part of the Constitution, But if it is now amended or struck down according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution, I shall have no quarrel with it. Indeed. I shall as zealously defend the amendment which might be carried out by the Parliament."

"I have done no irregular thing all these years of my long career and I am not likely to do it now. There is no room for conflict and clash between myself and the Prime Minister. For I have not expressed any desire for being elected for another term, nor have I tried to replace the Prime Minister by myself or anybody else and I have never asked for favours such as allotment of plots or any pecuniary benefits. I am not afraid of living a peaceful private life. And that is why even when friends insisted that I was indispensable and should declare myself candidate for presidency, I did not even once concede to their plea. All I desire is that there should be peace and progress and democracy should flourish in Pakistan.

"However, as long as I am in office" he said "I have certain vital and onerous constitutional responsibilities to discharge. I am duty-bound to warn the government if any irregularities are committed which are harmful to national interests. Corruption and mal-administration are not the things which can be tolerated."

Some of the duties and obligations of the President in the Constitution are enumerated as under.

I(46) It shall be the duty of the Prime Minister:

(A) To communicate to the President all decisions of the cabinet relating to the administration of the affairs of the federation and proposals for legislations.

(b) to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the federation and proposal for legislation as the President may call for, and

(c) If the President so requires, to submit for the consideration of the cabinet any matter on which a decision has been taken by the Prime Minister or a Minister but which has not been considered by the cabinet.

I (56) (1) The President may address either House or both Houses assembled together and may for that purpose require the attendance of the members.

I (2) The President may send messages to either House, whether with respect to a Bill then pending in the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or otherwise, and a House to which any message is so sent shall with all convenient despatch consider any matter required by the message to be taken into consideration.

I (3) At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the National Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses assembled together and inform the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of the causes of its summons.

(4) Provision shall be made in the rules for regulating the procedure of a House and the conduct of its business for the allotment of time for discussion of the matters referred to in the address of the President.

I (54) (1) The President may, from time to time, summon either House or both Houses or 2 Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit and may also prorogue the same.

(2) There shall be at least 2 (three) [as published] sessions of the National Assembly every year, and not more than one hundred and twenty days shall intervene between the last sitting of the Assembly in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session;

Provided that the National Assembly shall meet for not less than one hundred 3 (thirty) [as published] working days in each year.

4 (Explanation—In this clause, "working days" includes any day on which there is a joint sitting and any period, not exceeding two days, for which the National Assembly is adjourned.)

2 (48) (1) In the exercise of his functions, the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet (or the Prime Minister.)

4 (Provided that the President may require the cabinet or, as the case may be, the Prime Minister to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.)

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1), the President shall act in his discretion in respect of any matter in respect of which he is empowered by the Constitution to do so (and the validity of anything done by the President in his discretion shall not be called in question on any ground whatsoever.)

(4) The question whether any, and if so what, advice was tendered to the President by the cabinet, the Prime Minister, a Minister and Minister of State shall not be inquired into in, or by any court, tribunal or other authority.

(5) Where the President dissolves the National Assembly, he shall in his discretion,

(a) fix a date, not later than (ninety) days from the date of the dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly and

(b) appoint a care-taker cabinet.

(6) If, any any time, the President, in his discretion, or on the advice or the Prime Minister, considers that it is desirable that any matter of national importance should be referred to a referendum, the President may cause the matter to be referred to a referendum in the form of a question that is capable of being answered either by "Yes" or "No".

(7) An Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) may lay down the procedure for the holding of a referendum and the compiling and consolidation of the result of a referendum.

Sharif Reacts 'Positively'

BK1906074593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has positively reacted to the statement of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan wherein he said: "There is no room for any dispute between President and Prime Minister."

He said that he had always been desirous of having better working relationship with the President and he tried to maintain good relations with him when the advisors of visitors of Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] were making provocative statement and endeavouring to create a gulf between the President and him.

He said that efforts were made to destabilise his government but he ignored those politicians in national interest and went to the President. He said that he had requested the President not to damage the political stability. "He could have made this statement at that time, which he has made today," he remarked.

The Prime Minister said thank God that President had recognised the importance of working relationship between the Prime Minister and himself and also acknowledged the right of the Parliament to make changes in the Eighth Constitutional Amendment, and also resolved to protect the new Amendment.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that he was happy to note that the President had not talked about the dissolution of National Assembly. About the government affairs, the Prime Minister said that after the restoration of National Assembly, he started working with the President. "I brought all matters to his notice", he said. He said that the President has also admitted it, and the people should now be satistied to know that his government is functioning within the framework of constitution.

When the Prime Minister's attention was drawn to the recent statements of the politicians of President's camp, he smilingly said: "Do you believe that the President is still unaware of their design?"

In reply in a question about the activities of the President's political teams in Punjab and NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], the Prime Minister said, "The President has himself described the National Assembly dissolution as a matter of the past, and the subsequent dissolution of the Punjab and NWFP Assemblies is a part of this act and the President must know that if a big part of the past still exists, how it can be termed as the past. It is tantamount to concealing the facts, he said.

When asked whther he was going to hold a meeting with the President in the near further, the Prime Minister said: "I am prepared to visit Aiwan-i-Sadr for hundred times if the nation considered it in the country's interest."

President Wants 'Urgent Meeting'

BK2006104593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] has again indicated that all contentious issues between him and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif can be sorted out if a meeting is held between the two.

"There is no problem which cannot be resolved through mutual consultations," JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] leader and member of the Council of Islamic Ideology, former Senator Qazi Abdul Latif quoted the President as saying during his meeting with him on Saturday.

He remained with the president for 45 minutes and would communicate GIK's message to the Prime Minister in the next couple of days.

But simultaneously the President is also taking a hard line against the Prime Minister during the meetings with many political and non-political people. "Nothing doing! Nawaz Sharif has to seek a fresh mandate," is what he reportedly told some of them.

Observers are intrigued over these contradictory signals. They believe that President's conciliatory signals may be an attempt to improve his public image.

Qazi Latif told THE NEWS that matters relating to GIK-Nawaz relations, post-dissolution crisis in the Punjab and the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and proposals to end this situation were discussed during his meeting with the President. He said that he proposed the formation of a national security council comprising the President, the Premier, the four chief ministers, the Chairman Senate, the Speaker National Assembly and the chiefs of the armed forces.

The JUI leader said this body could play a role in bringing about a rapprochement between the President and Prime Minister.

"I wish to have an urgent meeting with him (the PM) to end speculations," he quoted the President as saying. Qazi Latif told the President that the Prime Minister held him (GIK) responsible for creating a crisis in the Punjab and NWFP.

To this the President replied that all these problems could be hammered out through dialogue. The former Senator added that he had found a significant change in the attitude of the President which augured well for the country.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has consulted his colleagues about "sudden peace overtures" from the President. A dominant view among them was that a couple of federal ministers, who are known as "doves", should be sent to GIK to know what does he actually want. Federal ministers including Lt. Gen. (retd) Abdul Simjaat Hussain, Syed Ghous Ali Shah and Ijazul Haq were in favour of starting a dialogue for the greater good of democracy. Others view GIK's changed posture as a ploy to "undermine" government- opposition talks, which, many say, are already not going well.

"The President had, in fact, conveyed that I want a fresh start with an open heart. But at the same time, he has spelt out powers available to him under the Constitution. What does this mean?" ask these [words indistinct] to the Prime Minister.

Sharif on Talks With Bhutto, Ishaq Khan

BK2006153093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said that he has invited Ms. Benazir Bhutto for face-to- face talks and she can hold these talks at whatever time convenient to her. He said that he will take his party into confidence before holding talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

About India-Pakistan relations, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that Kashmir is a key issue in this connection and its resolution can improve relations between the two countries.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also addressed the employees of the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad today.

'Forceful Indian Army Firing' on Kashmir Border

BK1906081593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Jun 93 p 5

[Text] Muzaffarabad (KPI)—All the fields corps at Labgaran, Azad Sadpura, Chiri, Ghasia, Baramula, Rahipur and Bichal Dhal have been destroyed following forceful Indian Army firing in Leepa sector. There have also become shortage of essential commodities. Local people due to fear and intimidation have been trapped in their houses and are distressed over the destruction of their crops. Authoritative sources say army has banned all kinds of activities in border areas. "Latest reports firing is continuing in this area and this has made life difficult for the local people."

Minister Denies Indians Entered Azad Kashmir

BK2006081493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, has said Pakistan's forces are keeping normal vigilance for the security of its borders. Speaking on a call attention notice by Mr. Wasim Ahmed and Omar Farooqi in the National Assembly today, he denied press reports that Indian troops have entered Pakistani territory and laid mines in Azad Kashmir.

Parliament Welcomes Arrival of Bosnian Refugees

BK2006083493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The National Assembly has unanimously welcomed the arrival of Bosnian refugees in Pakistan. In a resolution moved by Mr. Liaqat Baloch, of Jamaat-i-Islami, the House praised the decision of the Government in accepting the Bosnian as refugees at a difficult time of their history.

In a statement before the House, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said the prime minister agreed to accept some of the Bosnian Muslims at the request of the Bosnian ambassador. He said the arrangements made give adequate expression to the sympathy which the Pakistanis have for their Bosnian brothers. Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said Pakistan has advocated decisive, expeditious and comprehensive action by the UN Security Council to enforce its decision for reversing the Serbian aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina by use of force.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Agrees to 'Unconditional' Release of Hostages

BK1906100293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 19 Jun 93

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, June 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas Saturday agreed to release unconditionally 39 security personnel held by them for three years, military spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammana said.

The surprise gesture by the guerrillas to free all their hostages in one go was seen here as a move that could bring the warring sides closer to fresh negotiations to end the long-running ethnic conflict. But the decision of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) conveyed through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) baffled the military, which had been unsuccessfully negotiating the release for the past six months.

"The ICRC has not told us what the LTTE wants in exchange. Therefore we consider this an unconditional release. Perhaps the Tigers may be wanting to get some (publicity) mileage out of this," Angammana told AFP. He said the 38 constables and the soldier were expected to be released later Saturday to their relatives currently visiting the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula on an ICRC mercy mission.

The ICRC arranged for 72 relatives to visit the prisoners for the first time since they fell into the hands of the Tigers on June 13, 1990, two days after the latest round of bloodletting began in the island's embattled northeast. The hostages had begun a fast last week to focus attention on their plight and blamed Colombo for failing to secure their freedom.

All the hostages were from Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community. Some 700 policemen who surrendered to the Tigers in the island's east at around the same time were presumed to have been executed.

A rival Tamil group, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) which is cooperating with the government in the drive against the LTTE, welcomed the release but said the Tigers should also free Tamil prisoners.

"We welcome the release of policemen. We hope the LTTE will do the same with the 2,000 Tamil prisoners they are holding. Then only they can prove their bona fides," PLOTE spokesman Dharmalingam Sidhathan told AFP.

He said the unilateral action by the Tigers could make it easier for Colombo to initiate a fresh round of talks with the separatist guerrillas but expressed doubts that the Tigers would genuinely sit down to talk.

Fourteen months of peace talks between Colombo and the LTTE broke down three years ago, leading to a fresh round of fighting which began on June 11, 1990.

"The Tigers are trying to show that they have humane considerations... Western governments have now begun to regard them as a terrorist organisation so they need to improve their image," Sidhathan said.

Military officials said they had arranged to transport the freed prisoners by boat to the government-controlled eastern port of Trincomalee from where they will be brought to Colombo.

ICRC officials were not immediately available for comment. It was also not clear if the Tigers decided to release their prisoners following a behind-the-scenes deal with the government.

Earlier, the Tigers had wanted a full list of all suspects held by security forces to decide whom they wanted freed in exchange for the hostages. Security forces resisted the demand but offered to release 60 LTTE suspects, or the Tigers could name those they wanted freed. Colombo did a prisoner swap with the LTTE seven years ago when it handed over two Tiger guerrillas in exchange for a soldier captured in the Jaffna peninsula.

In January this year, the LTTE freed two constables to the Anglican Bishop of Colombo Kenneth Fernando as a sign of goodwill and demanded that Colombo reciprocate before freeing other hostages.

The LTTE is leading a violent guerrilla campaign for a separate Tamil state in the island's northeast where thousands have died in bitter fighting over some 10 years.

LTTE Lists Demands for Release

BK1906143893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Colombo, June 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas reneged on a promise to release 39 security personnel Saturday and demanded an economic blockade be lifted before the prisoners are freed, military sources said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had told the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) they would unconditionally release the hostages to their families, military spokesman brigadier Nalin Angammana said. However, even as the sun set in the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula, there was no sign of the guerrillas freeing the 38 constables and one soldier captured three years ago, military officials said.

"They seem to have put forward demands like lifting the embargo on fuel and battery cells to Jaffna before the prisoners can be allowed to go," a military source said.

Rehabilitation Commissioner-General Ananda Weerasekara, who is also a retired army brigadier, was holding talks with the Tigers on the release of the men but there was no sign of immediate progress, the source said.

Earlier in the day, Brigadier Angammana said Weerasekara was sent as an envoy to receive the hostages following assurances that the hostages would be released unconditionally.

"The ICRC did not tell us what the LTTE wanted in exchange. Therefore we considered this to be an unconditional release," Angammana told AFP. ICRC officials were not immediately available for comment.

Military authorities were initially baffled by the Tiger promise to a no-strings attached release because they had been unsuccessfully negotiating with the LTTE through the ICRC over the past six months to secure a release.

The sudden demands which stalled the release came as a serious blow to the 72 relatives who were visiting the prisoners somewhere on the Jaffna peninsula through ICRC intervention. The ICRC arranged for the relatives to visit the prisoners for the first time since the men were captured by the Tigers on June 13, 1990, two days after the latest round of fighting broke out in the island's northeast. The hostages had begun fasting last week to focus attention on their plight and blamed Colombo for failing to secure their freedom.

Analysts had earlier expressed hope that an unconditional release of the security personnel, who belong to the majority Sinhalese community, could bring the warring factions closer to ending the ethnic bloodshed. Fourteen months of peace talks between Colombo and the LTTE broke down, leading to a fresh round of fighting which began on June 11, 1990.

Tigers initially wanted a list of all LTTE prisoners held by government troops to demand the release of certain rebel prisoners in exchange for freeing the security personnel. The government refused the demand, but offered to release 60 LTTE suspects.

Colombo did a prisoner swap with the LTTE seven years ago when it handed over two Tiger guerrillas in exchange for a soldier captured by the militants in the Jaffna peninsula.

In January this year, the LTTE freed two constables to the Anglican Bishop of Colombo Kenneth Fernando as a sign of good will, and asked that Colombo reciprocate before the LTTE frees other hostages.

Tamils Flee Jaffna, Seek Refuge

BK1706124893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Seventy-five percent of the Tamil population in northern Sri Lanka are fed up with LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] repression. Sixty more Tamils, who left Jaffna, told the security forces' northern commander Major General Rohana Dalwatte when he met them at the Cheddikulam military checkpoint district yesterday that they sought refuge and wanted to live in the areas liberated by security forces. Maj. Gen. Dalwatte told LANKAPUVATH that 60 Tamils fleeing from terrorist repression had told him that the LTTE had demanded that each family living in LTTE-controlled areas has been required by the terrorists to hand over one son to the LTTE on or before the 20th of this month, otherwise the LTTE demanded a ransom of 10,000 rupees from each family in exchange for the freedom of their sons. The escaping Tamils had told him that 75 percent of the people in the North were fed up with the LTTE.

LTTE's 'Parallel Government' Viewed

BK2106083193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Jun 93 p 7

[Text] Jaffna—While the Sri Lankan armed forces may have virtually encircled Jaffna district during the last couple of years, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has only increased its hold over the civil administration in the rest of the peninsula. Today, the armed forces control the islands to the west of Jaffna, such as Kayts and Mandaitivu, a swathe of land along the northern coast, including Palaly airbase, Kankesanthurai harbour and Elephant Pass. But in the heart of the peninsula—where an estimated 7 lakh people reside—it is the writ of the LTIE which runs.

Formally, Jaffna peninsula is administered by a Government agent—the rough equivalent of the district collector in India. In practice, however, his role is largely restricted to monitoring food supplies and overseeing relief measures for the thousands of families displaced by the war.

In most other spheres, it is the LTTE who run what is widely referred to as the "parallel government". The most visible evidence of this is the LTTE's recently-constituted police force, an ubiquitous presence in Jaffna's streets nowadays, The force even has a traffic wing, though the vehicles directed by the smartly turned out uniformed men and women in this fuel-starved region are mainly bicycles and cycle-rickshaws. Ironically, the police headquarters is located in the town centre at Kutcheri, in the very buildings that once housed the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]

The Tigers have also evolved a finely-honed system of taxation, Those, according to the LTTE, who can afford it, are expected to pay the Sri Lankan equivalent of Rs 6,500 or a similar amount in gold annually.

All land sales have to be registered with the LTTE. which charges the equivalent of a capital gains tax on such transactions. The organisation has even set up what could be described as an immigration facility .

Nobody is allowed to leave the Jaffna peninsula without an "LTTE pass"—a printed slip of paper which specifies the date by which an "emigre" must return to Jaffna. Those who want to leave for long durations are expected to sign a declaration stating that their properties will be transferred to the LTTE if they do not return by a determined period.

A Jaffna resident said, "This is a different country. with a different government and different bosses. Make no mistake of that".

Evidently, the recent changes in the LTTE hierarchy, in which some relatively unknown people were promoted to the top, hasn't weakened its control of the people or the administration .

Sources in Jaffna maintain that while Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, intelligence chief Pottu Amman and political adviser Anton Balasingham remain where they were, a new set of people have gained prominence. Among them are Tamilchelvam or Dinesh (the LTTE's Overall Political Commander), Balaraj (Overall Military

Commander), Baby Subramaniam (Overall, Education) and the litterateur Puduvai Ratnadorai (Overall, Culture).

For any administration in Jaffna today, however, the most pressing problems are perhaps that of refugees and the lack of food supplies. Although Colombo does ship government rations to the peninsula now and then, the bulk of the food supplies are transported via the prohibited and battle-prone Jaffna Lagoon with the assistance of the LTTE.

As for the refugee problem, it has been brought about by people fleeing the areas occupied by the Sri Lankan armed forces in LTTE- controlled territory.